May 13, 2020

The MMS will continue to monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the response by state and federal agencies. For current information, including updates from the NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: massmed.org/covid-19.

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**Public Health**

**DPH issues recommendation for routine testing of close contacts to COVID-19 cases**

As some restrictions begin to loosen, the rapid identification of COVID-19 cases and identification of their close contacts is an utmost priority. Close contacts of confirmed cases are the people most likely to become infected themselves. To facilitate identification of infections, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is now recommending molecular testing of all close contacts, regardless of symptom status. The DPH notification, released on May 11, contains details on the testing recommendation and can be found [here](massmed.org/covid-19).

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**DPH releases revised COVID-19 testing criteria**
Today, May 13, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) released updated testing criteria for COVID-19 laboratory testing. The guidance expands testing recommendations for COVID-19 in commercial and clinical laboratories and indicates which subset of specimens can be submitted to the MA State Public Health Laboratory.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program invites you to “A Conversation with Dr. Jim O’Connell"

Dr. Jim O'Connell, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program’s (BHCHP) president and founding physician, will host an online presentation this Thursday, May 14, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In addition to sharing an update on the innovative ways in which BHCHP staff are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in our homeless community, Dr. O'Connell will highlight the broader scope of health care the organization continues to provide for a population that bears a heavy burden of illness. To register, click here.

Practice Management

New Practice Resource: Tips for Expanding Practice during COVID-19

As we continue to see an expansion of medical services across the state, the MMS developed a new resource that provides tips for expanding practices during COVID-19. The document builds on the Society's ongoing effort to help physicians have relevant and needed information to navigate the rapidly changing practice environment.

New MassHealth All Provider Bulletin released

MassHealth issued All Provider Bulletin 294 on May 12, which includes updates on the coverage flexibilities permitted during the COVID-19 emergency. APB 294
supplements All Provider Bulletin 289 and All Provider Bulletin 291 by providing additional guidance on:

- Billing for services rendered via telehealth.
- Billing for services rendered to dual-eligible members via audio-only telehealth.
- Coverage and billing for a new remote patient monitoring service.
- The extension of informational edits to the eviCore PA program past June 1, 2020.
- Billing for preventive visits for children and adults.