December 14, 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 NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: massmed.org/covid-19.

Public Health

Last chance! Join Dr. Rubin & Dr. Biddinger tonight for a discussion about the COVID-19 vaccine

Tonight’s Massachusetts Medical Society webinar, "The COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts," has more seats available for attendees. Please use the registration link below to participate in the forum at 7:00 p.m. ET! A recording of the event will be posted on the MMS website this week for those unable to attend. Stay tuned for more details in Wednesday's edition of this newsletter.

- **Dr. Eric Rubin** is editor-in-chief of the New England Journal of Medicine and NEJM Group.
- **Dr. Paul Biddinger** is Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness at Massachusetts General Brigham and chair of Governor Baker’s Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination.
- Additional panelists include: **Dr. Larry Madoff**, Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences at the Massachusetts Department of
Public Health; Dr. Simone Wildes, chair of the MMS Committee on Diversity and vice-chair of the MMS Committee on Public Health; and Dr. Asif Merchant, chair of the MMS Committee on Geriatric Medicine and a member of the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group.

Register

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

On December 11, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization allowing for the U.S. distribution of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Additional information:

- Letter of authorization
- Fact sheet for healthcare providers administering the vaccine
- Fact sheet for recipients and caregivers
- FDA decision memorandum
- Press release
- 12/10/2020 Advisory Committee meeting information

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine training & education series

Pfizer will be hosting a series of training sessions to review information and answer questions about their COVID-19 vaccine:

December 15, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. ET
- 4:30 p.m. ET

December 16, 2020
Are your patients considering holiday travel?

Travel may increase the chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to recommend postponing travel and staying home, as this is the best way for people to protect themselves and others this year. If patients are considering traveling for the winter holidays, [here are some important questions](#) to ask beforehand.

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**Practice Management**

**Readying your practice for the COVID-19 vaccine**

To prepare your practice for vaccine administration, the Massachusetts Medical Society encourages you to review the following resources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and Reimbursement Information](#) compiled by the Massachusetts Medical Society
- [Vaccine Information for Providers](#) and [FAQ](#) from the MA Department of Public Health
• **Health Care Professionals: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccine** - Resources about storage and handling, understanding mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, talking with patients about the vaccine, and FAQ from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

• **Pharmacy Partnerships for Long Term Care Facilities** from Mass.gov

• **How to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine for your Practice** - To receive the vaccine, providers are **required** to register with the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), which will track vaccine administration to increase efficiency, limit waste, and notify patients about their second dose.

More resources and training materials about the COVID-19 vaccine are available on the [MMS COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#).