January 13, 2021

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

Update on COVID-19 vaccine access for independent private practice, specialty care

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) continues to work with the COVID-19 Command Center, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and Mass General Brigham (MGB) on a new program that will enable smaller, independent Phase 1 primary care and specialty care practices to access the COVID-19 vaccine for their own health care workers. Regional hospitals throughout Massachusetts will serve as depots to receive and store vaccine and redistribute it to smaller practices that are unable to receive the vaccine directly. Please watch for more details from the MMS coming soon.

To be a part of the program for office-based vaccination, a practice must: (1) sign up for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), (2) enroll in the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP), and (3) possess a valid Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR).
If your site does not normally administer immunizations but wants to administer COVID-19 vaccinations only, please review the following guidance in detail to see if your site qualifies.

If you would like information about receiving vaccines at a depot/site, please contact pprc@mms.org.

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**CDC expands negative COVID-19 test requirement to all air passengers entering the United States**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is expanding the requirement for a negative COVID-19 test to all air passengers entering the United States. Before departure to the United States, a required test—combined with CDC recommendations to get tested again 3-5 days after arrival and stay home for 7 days post-travel—will help slow the spread of COVID-19 within U.S. communities from travel-related infections.

[Read more](#)

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**Ad Council and COVID Collaborative team up on videos for health care personnel**

The Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative released new informational videos to build vaccine confidence and address health care professionals' questions about COVID-19 vaccination. The videos—which feature an introduction from [Anthony Fauci, MD](#)—include experts from a diverse coalition of leading health care organizations and medical institutions sharing information around COVID-19 vaccine development and safety with their fellow physicians and nurses.

The video series, linked below, will be shared with the medical community soon to increase understanding and confidence in the efficacy and safety of the new vaccines. Topics addressed include safety, availability, cost, side effects, vaccine administration, answering patients' questions, and more.
Practice Management

NGS launches "Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine and Monoclonal Antibody" webpage

The National Government Services' (NGS) "COVID-19 Vaccine and Monoclonal Antibody" webpage is now live. In addition to important resources, the "Medicare Part B Billing for the COVID-19 Vaccine and Monoclonal Antibody" article provides information about billing and submitting claims, associated COVID-19 vaccine codes and effective dates, payment allowances, dosing intervals, and provider eligibility information.

AllWays Health Partners update: COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and treatment

For the duration of the public health emergency, AllWays has removed copayments, deductibles, or coinsurance for medically necessary COVID-19 testing and treatment. This applies to inpatient and outpatient services at in- or out-of-network providers, including urgent care centers, emergency departments, hospitals, and other facilities.

AllWays will cover the administration of all COVID-19 vaccines that receive emergency use authorization or full approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at no cost to its members.
Telehealth policy and coverage: What you need to know for 2021

Telehealth was thrust onto the main stage in 2020 as a way to keep people safe while still receiving care amidst the pandemic. Telehealth continues to cement its place in care delivery now and into the future. The American Medical Association (AMA) has advocated for telehealth policies and coverage that support the long-term, sustainable use of telehealth as an option for physicians and patients. Learn about the latest policy and coverage developments at the federal and state levels to ensure that your practice is prepared to successfully leverage telehealth in 2021.

- Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021
- Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET
- Speakers: Sandy Marks, JD, AMA Senior Assistant Director of Federal Affairs; Kim Horvath, AMA Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center

Register

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