January 27, 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

“Fireside chat” with Dr. Anthony Fauci Feb. 9

The American Medical Association (AMA) is part of COVID Collaborative, a national assembly that has brought together leading organizations in health, education, and the economy to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. On February 9 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET, the COVID Collaborative will host a fireside chat with Dr. Anthony Fauci titled "COVID-19 Action in the Biden Era." Dr. Fauci and the co-chairs of the COVID Collaborative, former Governors Deval Patrick (D-MA) and Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID) will discuss how the new administration is approaching the crisis. After the initial discussion, there will be a moderated question-and-answer session with Dr. Fauci. The event will be hosted on Zoom and a link will be sent to registrants prior to Feb. 9.

- Date: Tuesday, February 9
- Time: 12 p.m.- 1 p.m. ET
Please RSVP here.

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**DPH updates on 75+ patients COVID-19 vaccinations to guide conversations**

Starting today, Massachusetts residents 75+ can begin to book COVID-19 vaccinations appointments. To help answer questions with your patients, the Department of Public Health (DPH), would like physicians to share with patients that due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, it may take time to secure an available appointment. Eligible residents should continue to check for appointments, as they will be added on a rolling basis, as open appointments become available. Please instruct patients to visit here to book an appointment. They can also view the vaccine map here.

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**Practice Management**

**Tufts Health Plan vaccine update**

Tufts Health Plan will cover the coronavirus vaccine in full. There will be no cost to members. Refer to the COVID-19 Vaccination Payment Policy and the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Providers for additional information.

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**Jan. 28: Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call: Post-acute COVID-19 care**

For some people, the effects of COVID-19 can last well beyond the immediate illness. Patients and clinicians across the United States are reporting long-term effects of COVID-19, commonly referred to as long COVID. Symptoms may include cognitive difficulties, fatigue, and shortness of breath. In some patients, critical illness from
COVID-19 may be the cause of persistent symptoms, but many patients with long-term effects had mild or asymptomatic acute COVID-19 infection. During this COCA call, presenters will share their firsthand experiences with treating long COVID, focusing on the pulmonary, neurologic, and psychological aspects. They will also describe their experiences with establishing clinics that provide care for patients with these long-term effects.

- Date: Thursday, January 28
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Register here.

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Jan. 28: Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan webinar

Lisa Gonzalez Welch, Economic Development Specialist, and Oreste Varela, Springfield Branch Manager of the Small Business Administration (SBA), will present information on the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) and the (PPP) Paycheck Protection Program.

- Date: Thursday, January 28
- Time: 9:30–10:30 a.m. ET

Register here.

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COVID-19 webinar: Vaccine safety and delivery

The American Medical Association (AMA) welcomes back Peter Marks, MD, PhD, Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to discuss the road ahead now that vaccines are available. Susan R. Bailey, MD, AMA president, will host the event.

- Date: Friday, Jan. 29.
- Time: 4 p.m. ET
January 28: DOI and CHIA meeting for providers

The Division of Insurance (DOI) and the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) hosts regular meetings to offer providers an opportunity to raise questions and concerns related to COVID-19 commercial insurance provisions. The next meeting will focus on telehealth, prior authorization, and other topics, and will be recorded for later viewing. The DOI and CHIA, along with the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) and the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA), sponsor these calls.

- Date: Thursday, January 28
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501

Join the meeting

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