January 6, 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

Vaccine access for COVID-19-facing private practice, specialty care

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with Mass General Brigham (MGB) and the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), will help primary care providers and specialty care providers—who are COVID-facing and prioritized under Phase 1 of the Commonwealth’s vaccine distribution plan—have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Regional hospitals throughout the state will serve as depots to receive, store, and redistribute the vaccine to smaller practices that are unable to accept vaccines directly because of their size and storage capacities. This plan will enable such practices to vaccinate their own prioritized health care workers.

Steps to prepare your practice for COVID-19 vaccination
Unsure how to ready your practice for COVID-19 vaccination? The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) encourages you to follow these first steps:

- Identify the lead person at your practice for COVID-19 vaccination planning and implementation.
- Register with the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). You can confirm registration at miishelpdesk@mass.gov.
- Once MIIS is completed, submit an electronically signed Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP) enrollment form. You can confirm that your facility has signed and electronically submitted the MCVP enrollment form by contacting the DPH Vaccine Unit at dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us.
- For FAQ about the enrollment form, click here.

The MMS is aware that hospitals, health centers, and some of the larger multispecialty group practices received the first round of the vaccine. The DPH anticipates that the next cohort will include private practice, non-affiliated COVID-facing primary care practices and their staff. The MMS will continue to publish updates in this e-newsletter as details are clarified; we hope to report more information by next week.

For details about the MCVP Guidance for Healthcare Providers and Organizations, click here.

MMS launches dedicated vaccine resource page

The MMS has compiled a collection of vetted resources to help physicians navigate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. To learn more about vaccine allocation, safety/efficacy, readying your practice, and talking to your patients, visit the resource page today.

Read more about COVID-19 vaccines
Risk of false results with Curative SARS-Cov-2 test

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting patients and health care providers of the risk of false results, particularly false negative results, with the Curative SARS-Cov-2 test. Risks to a patient of a false negative result include:

- Delayed or no supportive treatment
- No monitoring of infected individuals, their household, and close contacts for symptoms, which may cause an increased risk of COVID-19 spread within the community
- Other unintended adverse events

Donated hand sanitizer available

The Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association (MHA), in partnership with the Massachusetts Value Alliance (MVA), is receiving a donation of hand sanitizer from MD Science Labs that will be available to member organizations. More than eleven thousand 8-oz bottles of sanitizer will be available for pick up next week (location, date, and time to be determined). Interested organizations should complete this brief form by the end of business hours on Friday, January 8, to reserve sanitizer. MHA will then contact organizations early next week to confirm their order and pickup arrangements.

Please contact MHA’s Kim Stevenson with any questions at kstevenson@mhalink.org. Product details, including the safety data sheets, are here.

Physician and patient FAQ on COVID-19 vaccines

The American Medical Association (AMA) released new FAQ documents about COVID-19 vaccination that cover safety, allocation and distribution, administration, and more.

1. [FAQ for physicians]
2. **FAQ for patients**

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### Practice Management

#### Tax info for physicians receiving Provider Relief Fund payments

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) posted an update to its Provider Relief Fund FAQ with important tax information for physicians.

Physicians will receive a Form 1099 if, during 2020, they received and retained a total net payment over $600 from (1) the Provider Relief Fund, and/or (2) the COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured.

[Click here](#) to read the Form 1099 FAQ [or here](#) for HHS’ Provider Relief Fund FAQ.

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### Vaccine information from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care updated its provider resource page with information about becoming a COVID-19 vaccinator, cost-sharing for vaccines, referral/authorization for vaccines, provider reimbursement, and vaccine coding guidance.

[Read more](#)

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### January 7: 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
The DOI and CHIA, along with the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) and the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA), sponsor these calls.

- Date: Thursday, January 7
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501

Join meeting

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