October 21, 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

Take the Massachusetts COVID-19 survey

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is conducting a survey to learn how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted Massachusetts citizens and understand how best to provide people with resources and support around COVID-19.

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) is promoting the survey and encourages you to share it with your contacts. The survey can be taken here. The translated materials in 11 languages are available for download here.

Please share the survey with your networks and especially among the following communities and priority populations:

- Young people ages 14 and older
- People of color (of all ages)
- Individuals with a primary language other than English
- Formerly incarcerated individuals
Young parents
Pregnant or post-partum women

Upon completing the survey, resources are available to the participant including:

- General Health and Human Services (HHS) resources available in your community
- COVID-19 test locations
- Applying for health insurance
- Reporting unsafe work conditions
- Mental health and substance use
- Sexual and/or domestic violence
- Racism/discrimination
- Parenting/parental stress
- Older adult services

Free hand sanitizer available for Mass. health care providers

Massachusetts-based vendor SLH Medical Supply received a donation of hand sanitizer from The Faber Foundation that they would like to pass along to Massachusetts health care providers. The sanitizer is liquid and made in compliance with World Health Organization (WHO) specifications with 80% alcohol (ethanol). The safety data sheet for the sanitizer is available here.

A total of 12,000 16-ounce bottles are available in cases of 12. Sanitizer must be picked up on Thursday, October 29 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Webster, MA. A limit to the number of cases available to each organization will be determined based on the volume of interest. To express interest, please fill out this brief form. You will then receive an email with pick-up instructions and confirmation of the number of cases you will be allotted based on your request and availability. Please contact Jennifer Day with any questions.

Please note that COVID precautions will be in place and masks are required to be worn. This is a one-time offering and MMS is not able to ship the hand sanitizer to you and will not bring supplies back to our main office in Waltham. You must be able to have...
someone from your practice pick up the hand sanitizer on the donation day referenced above.

Eight things to know about vaccine planning

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is focused on vaccine planning and working closely with health departments and partners to prepare for when a vaccine is available. Below are some links to updated information about the planning.

- Eight things to know about U.S. COVID-19 vaccination plans
- How CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations
- Ensuring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines
- Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination

Stigma and Illness: Live webinar on October 29

The bias and discrimination that accompany certain illnesses can prevent individuals from seeking care, engender fear, and cause prejudice against entire groups or communities. The response to outbreaks, infectious disease, and stereotyped health conditions requires protecting health while mitigating the stigma that can further exacerbate social and health disparities. The Massachusetts Medical Society’s 17th Annual Public Health Leadership Forum will convene leaders in public health, medicine, and policy to examine ways to destigmatize disease and put forth interventions that reinforce prevention and the provision of safe, equitable, and quality health care. The program is free; however, pre-registration is required. Please visit [www.massmed.org/2020PHLF](http://www.massmed.org/2020PHLF) to register or to learn more about the program faculty and CME information.

- Date: Thursday, October 29
- Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. EDT
Aetna telehealth update

For commercial members, non-facility telemedicine claims must use POS 02 with the GT or 95 modifier. Fee schedules have been updated so claims with approved telemedicine CPT codes and modifiers with POS 02 will be reimbursed at the same rate as an equal office visit. For example, a telemedicine service 99213 GT with POS 02 will reimburse the same as a face-to-face in-office visit 99213. Urgent Care Centers should continue to use POS 20. All other facilities should continue to use their respective POS; CPTs and the telemedicine modifiers must be noted on the UB-04 and HCFA 1500 forms as the Rev Code will not be sufficient.

For Medicare members, POS 02 or POS 11, or the POS equal to what it would have been had the service been furnished in-person, along with the 95 modifier indicating that the service rendered was performed via telehealth, may be utilized and will reimburse at the same rate.

DOI and CHIA meeting for providers: testing, telehealth, and prior authorization

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 Governor Baker's emergency order commercial insurance provisions. The next meeting will focus on testing, telehealth, and prior authorization, and will be recorded for later viewing. The DOI and CHIA, along with the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, sponsor these calls.

- Date: Thursday, October 29
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501
- Meeting URL »