September 16, 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

Hunger and housing: Lessons from COVID-19

COVID-19 has exacerbated the effects of the social determinants of health, especially concerning housing and hunger. Food insecurity, and the ability to afford safe and stable housing, can lead to physical and mental health consequences that disproportionately affect marginalized populations. Megan Sandel, MD, MPH, Associate Director of the GROW Clinic at Boston Medical Center, Principal Investigator with Children’s Health Watch, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, will present. Kathryn Brodowski, MD, MPH, Chair of the MMS Committee on Nutrition and Physical Activity, will moderate.

- Date: Wednesday, September 23
- Time: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Register today »
Trump Administration releases COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) released two documents today outlining the Trump Administration’s strategy to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses to the American people. The documents, developed by HHS in coordination with DoD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provide a strategic distribution overview along with an interim playbook for state, tribal, territorial, and local public health programs to plan and operationalize a vaccination response to COVID-19. [Read more »]

Practice Management

Updated telehealth coverage policies for Mass. health plans

The Massachusetts Medical Society is working closely with health plan leadership, state officials, and partners within the health care system to address local needs resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. For an updated summary of telehealth coverage policies, please [click here].

DOI and CHIA meeting on Thursday 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 Hospital Association, sponsor these calls.

- Date: Thursday, September 17
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- [Meeting URL »](#)
CMS Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19

"Lessons from the Front Lines" calls are a joint effort between Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Physicians and other clinicians are invited to share their experiences, ideas, strategies, and insights related to their COVID-19 response. There is an opportunity to ask questions of presenters.

- Date: Friday, September 18
- Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Attendee dial-in: (833) 614-0820
- Passcode: 4446447
- Web link »