October 19, 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.

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**Practice Management**

**Update on preparing to vaccinate pediatric patients**

On Monday, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued an update in preparation for the likely recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals aged 5-11 on or around November 1. Physicians are a trusted source of medical advice and care for patients and families, and participation in the vaccination process is imperative to keep children healthy and safe.

To ensure that you are able to receive vaccines in the first week they become available, please complete the following survey by noon Wednesday, October 20: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Pedi_Pfizer.

To read the update and to find information on enrolling in the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP), click here.
Public Health

CDC issues new COVID-19 guidance for the holiday season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released updated guidance for the 2021 holiday season emphasizing that the best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to get vaccinated if you’re eligible. The CDC also recommends social distancing and masking indoors in areas with high or substantial transmission, even if you are fully vaccinated, and delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated. Read the full CDC holiday guidance, including specific information for protecting children and those with weakened immune systems.

CDC COCA call: What clinicians need to know about the recent updates to CDC’s recommendations for boosters

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) will host a webinar to provide an overview of the most recent clinical recommendations for administering COVID-19 booster vaccines.

The webinar will take place Tuesday, October 26, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To log in to the webinar, click here.

If you are unable to attend the live COCA Call, the recording will be available for viewing on the COCA Call webpage a few hours after the live event ends.

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