June 16, 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.

Please note: The Massachusetts Medical Society will conclude regular weekly publication of the Planning and Preparedness e-newsletter on Wednesday, June 16. Should metrics around COVID-19 change or if there is pertinent information that must be communicated rapidly, we will utilize this platform to communicate with you. Thank you for reading.

Practice Management

Stop using Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test: FDA safety communication

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a safety communication warning the public to stop using the Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test for diagnostic use. The FDA has significant concerns that the performance of the test has not been adequately established, presenting a risk to health. In addition, the test labeling distributed with certain configurations of the test includes performance claims that did not accurately reflect the performance estimates observed during the clinical studies of the tests. Finally, the test has not been authorized, cleared or approved by the FDA for commercial distribution or use in the United States, as required by law.
Interim guidance for antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2

Click here to learn about the recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates related to:

- Updated guidance based on new published studies on antigen test performance.
- Clarification about which nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) should be used for confirmatory testing.
- Considerations for people who have had previous SARS-CoV-2 infections and those who have been fully vaccinated.
- Two new antigen testing algorithms, one for congregate living settings, and one for community settings.
- Updates to testing suggestions for fully vaccinated, asymptomatic people.

COVID-19 public education campaign

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) COVID-19 public education campaign is a national initiative to increase public confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures such as mask wearing and social distancing.

Through a nationwide network of trusted messengers and consistent, fact-based public health messaging, the campaign helps the public make informed decisions about their health and COVID-19, including steps to protect themselves and their communities.

The effort is driven by communication science and provides tailored information for at-risk groups.

Find resources here.

Follow us on: