May 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.

---

Public Health

Updated comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendations for personal protective equipment (PPE). Based upon recommendations shared by the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has updated their Comprehensive PPE Guidance Document. The updated PPE recommendations reflect a greater availability of PPE and return to conventional uses of PPE, including N95 respirators. Health care providers should expect to return to conventional facemask and respirator use, meaning discarding a mask after each patient encounter, no later than July 1, 2021. Read the updated guidance here.
Janssen COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet update

The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers has been updated and is available in multiple languages.

CDC pediatric health care professionals COVID-19 vaccination toolkit

As parents’ most trusted source of information on vaccines, pediatric health care professionals play a critical role in helping parents/guardians understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and assuring them that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a toolkit to help share clear and accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines when starting or continuing conversations with parents/guardians, as well as information for those who choose not to vaccinate their child.

Antibody testing not currently recommended to assess immunity after vaccination: FDA safety communication

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reminding the public and health care providers that results from currently authorized SARS-CoV-2 antibody tests should not be used to evaluate a person’s level of immunity or protection from COVID-19 at any time, and especially after the person received a COVID-19 vaccination. To learn more, read here.