

**Draft Minutes**  
**MSSNY's Committee on Infectious Diseases**  
**October 17, 2019**  
**7:30 AM via Webex**

**Present**

Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner  
William Valenti, MD, Chair  
James Braun, MD, Vice-Chair  
Karen Myrie, MD, Vice-Chair  
Philip Kapan, MD  
Monica Sweeny, MD  
Wehbeh Anis Wehbeh, MD  
Thomas Madejski, MD, Past-President  
Joan Cincotta, Alliance

**Absent**

Richard Schoor, MD

**Excused**

Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner  
Mary Ruth Buchness, MD

**Staff**

Patricia Clancy, Sr. Vice President  
Public Health and Education  
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

**1) Welcome**

**2) Minutes – from May 16, 2019 meeting - accepted**

**3) Medical Exemption Legislative recap – MSSNY helped lead the campaign supporting medical exemptions only for vaccinations. People continue to oppose immunizations for a variety of reasons. Those that are “vaccine hesitant” are more likely to immunize their children after an informed discussion with their physician. The question was asked is there a need for MSSNY to offer education on immunization? Does this present an opportunity for physician leadership? Should MSSNY look to its own membership as an opportunity to educate physicians? It was mentioned that many young physicians “offer” vaccines rather than “recommend” them. Discussion followed whether the committee might reach out to the NYS Department of Health to partner with them on how to approach patients regarding vaccinations. Question – is the DOH currently doing anything to guide people that might be “vaccine hesitant”? Could MSSNY give them information on how to approach those that are vaccine hesitant? Now that the exemptions have been removed, education seems to be the next step. Statistically, immunization vaccine requests are up. Pat Clancy will reach out to the DOH to see if a**

19 joint letter could be sent to colleagues to educate them on the criteria for a medical  
20 exemption and how it should be applied.

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22 **4) Resolution 166** – This resolution was presented to the House of Delegates at the 2019  
23 April meeting. It was referred back to committee from the MSSNY Council due to  
24 questions regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> resolve – pertaining to underage consent. After lengthy  
25 discussion as to what is legally the age of consent in New York State and other issues,  
26 the committee has decided to remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> resolve pertaining to underage consent  
27 from Resolution 166 and to re-present it at the House of Delegates meeting in April  
28 2020. Pat Clancy will re-write Resolution 166 and send it to the committee for review  
29 before submission to the MSSNY Council.  
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- 31 **5) 2020 House of Delegates Sunset Review** – MSSNY annually reviews policy that is 10  
32 years old or older. The following policies have been referred back to the Infectious  
33 Disease Committee for action. These policies can either be reaffirmed, reaffirmed with  
34 modifications or Sunset. The following have been reviewed and the committee agreed  
35 to the following:

36 **PHE 312.979 Healthcare Workers and Influenza Vaccine – Reaffirmed**

37 **PHE 312.980 Influenza Vaccine – Sunset**  
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- 39 **6) 2020 Meeting Dates** – All meetings to be held on Thursdays at 7:30 AM.  
40 January 23, 2020  
41 April 30, 2020  
42 October 15, 2020  
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- 44 **7) PreP Aware Week** – HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is safe, affordable and highly  
45 effective at preventing HIV. The AIDS Institute is launching **PrEP Aware**, a public  
46 education campaign to promote **PrEP** that will include activities across New York State  
47 to be held October 20-26, 2019.  
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49 **Adjourned.**  
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