

**THE FIFTH DISTRICT BRANCH
OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NY**

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Onondaga County Medical Society Report to 5th District/MSSNY Council

- Throughout January and February, the focus of the Onondaga County Medical Society has been on vaccine rollout. Our first priority was trying to facilitate vaccination of our community physicians and our members' staff. For all of the 1A and 1B phase groups, access to vaccine has been extremely difficult, with unpredictable releases and sign-ups, demand far outstripping supply, and an electronic system that routinely crashes and favors those with the time and know-how to repeatedly and quickly check for appointments. We are currently working hard to advocate for inclusion of physicians in the actual administration of the vaccine, as their exclusion from the process has inordinately burdened practices as well as patients.
- Onondaga County Medical Society is pleased to be serving on the regional Vaccine Advisory Hub convened by Upstate Medical University. We are also participating in the local Health Equity group aimed at vaccine education and rollout for high-risk populations, with our President Dr. David Page convening a group of physicians from across the 5th or 6th District to provide input. We are also looking to involve our physicians and medical students in targeted public health education and outreach efforts.
- OCMS's Legislative Committee is meeting in advance of Physician Advocacy Day to strategize, familiarize all with the agenda, and share tips. We look forward to seeing whether the virtual format will allow for more robust participation.
- Onondaga County Medical Society will be offering multiple educational offerings for physicians and their staff members this quarter, though we are similarly challenged by our members' Zoom fatigue and general business.
- OCMS has applied for a PPP loan and is awaiting news on receipt, but we have already made significant cuts to programs, staffing, and services in response to this year's membership trends.