



MEMORANDUM

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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TO: MSSNY Council
FROM: Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner, MSSNY PHE
Janine Fogarty, MD, Assistant Commissioner, MSSNY PHE
Pat Clancy, Sr. VP/Managing Director, PHE
William Valenti, MD, Chair of MSSNY Infectious Disease Committee
SUBJECT: Ensuring affordability and equity in COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) Committee on Infectious Disease met on April 29, 2021 and discussed matters related to the need for a COVID-19 booster. Based on the science, it is apparent that a COVID-19 "booster" will be needed by the fall. It is still unclear that how Covid-19 vaccines immune protection lasts, but the consensus is that it will probably not be forever. There are also the emerging variants could have been developing and by providing a "booster" could help stop the spread of these variants throughout the country.

Committee members believe that such a booster, once it has been authorized, should be provided at no cost distribution to the states just as the original COVID-19 vaccine was. There was discussion at the committee meeting about submitting a resolution to the 2021 MSSNY House of Delegates in September but members felt that since this booster is in development that it was better if MSSNY addressed this issue at its June Council meeting. Members also agreed that getting the American Medical Association support of this concept was essential and would like this convey either through the normal process of the AMA or by having a letter sent to the AMA advocating that it supports public purchase and free distribution of the booster.

Therefore, the following resolution is before the MSSNY Council for its consideration:

Whereas development of COVID19 Vaccine was developed in record time in response to a worldwide pandemic emergency, and

Whereas the Federal government funded development and purchase of Covid19 vaccine for no cost distribution to the states, allowing the possibility of equity in the administration of this precious commodity, and

Whereas booster doses are likely to be needed to maintain the health and economy of our country, and

Whereas such boosters must be equitably available to all willing recipients in our state and country to maintain herd immunity, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that MSSNY support the public purchase and cost-free distribution of COVID-19 booster vaccine doses, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the American Medical Association for its consideration.

The MSSNY Infectious Disease Committee recommends that the MSSNY Council approve this resolution to ensure that there is timely consideration of this concept by both the state and federal government.

(FOR COUNCIL ACTION)