

**Draft Minutes
MSSNY
Committee on Infectious Diseases Meeting
April 29, 2021**

Present

Joshua Cohen, MD Commissioner
Janine Fogarty, MD Asst.
Commissioner
William Valenti, MD Chair
Karen Myrie, MD Co-Vice Chair
Philip Kaplan, MD
Monica Sweeney, MD

Absent

Mary Ruth Buchness, MD
Carmen Rodriguez, MD
Ryan Schloback, MD
Webeh Anis Wehbeh, MD
Mrs. Helene Mirza, Alliance

Invited Guests

Bonnie Litvack, MD President
Parag Mehta, MD
Art Fougner, Pat- President

Staff

Troy Oechsner, Exec VP
Patricia Clancy, Sr. Vice-President
Managing Director,
Public Health Education and
Governmental Affairs
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

Excused

James Braun, DO Co-Vice-Chair

1) Welcome

2) Adoption of February 11, 2021 w/corrections minutes – accepted

3) COVID Vaccine Update

a) COVID Vaccine Distribution to Physician Practices – Pat Clancy had a discussion with the department of health regarding the intent to re-engage physicians in the distribution of the vaccine. The state will eventually close these vaccination sites and it will fall upon physicians and other providers to deliver COVID 19 vaccine and its follow-up boosters. 1600 physicians and medical providers registered in the immunization registry to provide vaccines. Distribution of vaccines was limited to about 190 practices. There were practices that signed up and did not receive vaccines. There were providers that received vaccine supply from regional hubs or their local health departments. Pat Clancy asked the department of health for actual numbers of those that registered vs. those who actually received vaccine supply. The department of health indicated they are moving quickly to get the supply to local physicians. There were physicians that invested money to acquire the proper storage system for the vaccine only to have not received it. The 100 dose requirement is also problematic. The discussion then went to people who do not speak English – for them – going to their community physician is much easier. In the future, when pediatric doses are approved, parents are going to want to take their children to their pediatricians for vaccine administration. There should be planning now for the time when children become eligible. In addition, there should be planning now before children go to summer camps.

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There needs to be thought about boosters & variants. The physicians' office will be critical for administration of boosters. The ordering process needs to be looked at and updated. Physicians were required to replace orders on a weekly basis and each order had to be for a "specific" vaccine. A standing order of a certain amount would have assisted physicians in getting their patients scheduled and into the office to be vaccinated, also some restrictions on mobile clinics. They must be licensed by a certified Article 28 facility in order to cover liability, etc.

b) NYS Vaccine Tracker <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

There was brief discussion regarding the benefit of this tool provided by the NYS Department of Health.

c) CDC Statement on J & J and its impact on vaccine hesitancy

The J & J Vaccine being pulled from the market created additional hesitancy. There is the perception that the black and brown communities are being pushed to take that vaccine because it is inferior. There is a lot of vaccine "coddling" going on. It was noted that young women taking birth control pills should not take the J & J version of the vaccine due to possible complications with possible blood clots. Attention needs to be paid to correctional facilities and hospitals to make sure and encourage the staff to be vaccinated. Since staff is hesitant, it is expected that the residents of these facilities will be as well. The professional groups associated with these facilities need to be targeted to determine where the reluctance lies. Many colleges are mandating student vaccination in order for students to return to campus in the Fall.

4) Discussion of NY State Immunization Information System and Adult Immunizations

There is a bill before the Senate, S75 that seeks to amend public health law calling to remove the requirement of patient permission for physicians to report adult vaccination to the NYS DOH. This bill mandates that if physicians provide vaccines, they will have to belong to NYSIIS. This bill will also remove the requirement for adult consent for all vaccinations. MSSNY has policy on this.

Many physicians signed up for the NYSIIS system in anticipation of receiving vaccines and that did not happen. There was discussion of the Excelsior Pass. In order to have vaccine information for the Excelsior Pass the information has to be in the NYSIIS System. If physicians are going to be required to report vaccine status, there needs to be a central repository to receive the information. 1st doses took a while to show up in NYSIIS, but second doses showed up much faster.

10% of those receiving the first shots, did not show up for the second. Because the mandate for COVID vaccine requires "complete" vaccination, a central repository could be required in order to determine "vaccine compliance".

Moderna and Pfizer are both in clinical trials that cover 3 variants. Will people need to stick with the same brand of vaccine when receiving boosters? No, any brand of booster will do – variants will be addressed in all boosters. Brand is not important. Coverage for variants is what's most important.

74 **5) Resolutions for MSSNY House of Delegates September 18, 2021**
75 Resolutions for the House of Delegates must be submitted by June 25, 2021.
76 Possible funding for the cost of boosters was discussed. Cost is currently covered by
77 the federal government. The federal government is currently buying the vaccine
78 and distributing it to the states. MSSNY should go on record stating vaccines and
79 boosters should continue to be funded by the federal government. Dr. Kaplan will
80 draft a resolution stating such that will include a referral to the AMA, if the AMA
81 doesn't already have policy to that effect. It was suggested that the committee
82 expedite this policy by submitting to MSSNY Council at the next meeting instead of
83 waiting for the House of Delegates in the Fall. If approved by MSSNY Council it
84 automatically becomes MSSNY policy and will be forwarded to the AMA as MSSNY
85 policy. Dr. Kaplan offered to have the rough draft to Pat Clancy by Monday of next
86 week. The draft resolution will be sent to committee members for review via email.
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88 **6) Future topics of discussion for the committee:**

- 89 -Looking at Israel's vaccine distribution program
- 90 -Vaccine equity as a universal problem.

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92 **7) Adjourned – Next meeting October 14, 2021**

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