



MEMORANDUM

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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TO: MSSNY Council

FROM: Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner
Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner
Pat Clancy, Sr. Vice President, MSSNY PHE

SUBJ: Proposed Resolution For Council Consideration

In August, the MSSNY Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee began discussion on requiring vaccination among healthcare workers, staff, and school age children. The planning committee decided to draft a resolution the full Emergency Preparedness and Disaster and Terrorism Response Committee to consider. Additionally, the planning committee agreed that MSSNY's Infectious Disease Committee should also consider sponsorship of the resolution. The resolution was submitted by email to both committees, and discussion ensued by email. The members of both committees affirmed that the resolution should be presented for consideration. At the time of preparation and discussion, the deadline for submitting resolutions to the MSSNY HOD had passed. Therefore, it is now before the MSSNY Council for its consideration:

The Medical Society of the State of New York
Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster and Terrorism Response
Committee on Infectious Diseases

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a major threat to the health of the public, and

Whereas, the novel delta, delta-plus, and lambda variants of SARS-CoV-2, the viral agent that causes COVID-19, are believed to be more pathogenic, more virulent, and possibly vaccine resistant, and

Whereas, the currently available COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be highly effective in both preventing the illness in most individuals, as well as preventing serious illness and death even among those infected with the delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, and

Whereas, healthcare workers, including physicians, nurses, allied health personnel including emergency medical services providers, and healthcare support staff who interface with the public on a regular basis, have a moral obligation, consistent with the ethical values of their professions and the patient safety policies of the healthcare organizations by which they are employed, to cause no harm to patients, and

Whereas, the great majority of professional healthcare organizations strongly advocate COVID-19 vaccination for all their members, as the most effective way to protect healthcare workers as well as their patients from the ravages of COVID-19, and

Whereas, breakthrough infections among fully vaccinated individuals have recently occurred, chiefly owing to the increased pathogenicity and virulence of the delta COVID-19 variants, and

Whereas, recent studies have identified the role of unvaccinated children in spreading the illness, and emphasized the greater severity of the illness in unvaccinated children, and

Whereas, facial masking has been shown to significantly decrease the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus via aerosols and airborne droplets,

Whereas, stringent measures are urgently needed to contain the spread of the illness, and to minimize the threat that the illness may become endemic among the population, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York strongly advocate for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination among all healthcare workers and support staff who regularly interface with the public, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York strongly advocate for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination among all school-aged children, once the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirm the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines in the pediatric population, and be it further

RESOLVED, that for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and based upon the recommendations of the CDC and/or the New York State Department of Health, that the Medical Society of the State of New York strongly advocate for mandatory facial masking among all healthcare workers and support staff who regularly interface with the public, as well as all students, teachers, and administrative and support personnel in all primary, secondary, and postsecondary educational facilities in New York State.

(FOR MSSNY COUNCIL ACTION)