

**MSSNY Committee on Infectious Diseases Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:30AM to 9:30AM
Via Zoom**

Present

Joshua Cohen, MD Commissioner
William Valenti, MD Chair
Karen Myrie, MD Co-vice Chair
Philip Kaplan, MD
Monica Sweeney, MD MPH
Danielle Wales, MD
Helena Mirza, Alliance

Carmen Rodriguez, MD
Ryan Schlobach, MD
Saiganesh Ravikumar, Student

Invited Guests

Parag Mehta, MD MSSNY President-elect

Staff

Troy Oechsner, Executive VP
Pat Clancy, Sr. VP/Managing Director
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

Excused

Janine Fogarty, MD Asst.
Commissioner
James Braun, DO Co-vice Chair

Absent

1) Welcome

2) Accept minutes dated April 29, 2021 – accepted with notation.

3) Status of Resolution from MSSNY Emergency Preparedness and Infectious Disease Committees –

The resolution was brought before MSSNY Council and after extensive discussion was accepted and entered into record as policy.

a) Update on status of court challenge for mandate (religious exemption)

A court in the state of New York as put a temporary stay on the vaccine mandate as it reviews healthcare workers that have not complied due to religious exemptions. The law that passed in NYS eliminating everything but medical exemptions pertains to children attending NYS schools. It remains to be seen what will happen with adult requests.

Pat Clancy brought to the committee's attention that just this morning, the Biden administration asked the states to prepare for vaccination of children beginning in December. Governor Hochul seems to be in sync with this decision.

4) Israel's Vaccine Distribution Program – Dr. Valenti reviewed the 2 slides he was able to obtain regarding Israel's program and reviewed the data with the committee. Individuals 60 years or older who received two vaccine shots and a booster has significantly lower severe illness. Rate of infection 12 days after

vaccination was lower. Statistically, the rate of infection in the booster group was significantly lower than the non-booster/unvaccinated group.

5) Vaccine equity as a universal problem – what is the role of the community physician?

There is a problem with the distribution process. Pfizer required too large a quantity for a small practice. It forces physicians to order more than they can use in a reasonable period of time. The physicians can't afford to order vaccine that will go unused and will spoil. MSSNY needs to support small practices in the vaccine distribution. Physician offices in many instance are being excluded from vaccine distribution because of the "one size fits all" distribution process. Pat Clancy noted that MSSNY is gathering with local medical societies and the NYS Department of Health today to discuss equity with vaccine access and distribution. It is a result of the meeting in September that MSSNY with the DOH to improve communication with physician's booster and distribution. This is a good step connecting local medical societies and the DOH – it will allow discussion and collaboration with the DOH "before" things become policy. Pat Clancy invited members of the committee to join in on the meetings and added their names to the meeting email list and sent them a link to today's meeting if they are able to attend.

6) Medical Matters – Flyer for the program "Influenza in the Time of Pandemic" – Wednesday October 20, 2021 at 7:30AM hosted by Dr. Valenti

7) Future discussion – NYSIIS and MSSNY have committed to holding an informational session to educate physicians about NYSIIS and how to use it.

8) 2022 Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held on Thursdays between 7:30 and 9:30 AM

February 10, 2022

April 28, 2022

October 27, 2022

Adjourned