

Draft Minutes
MSSNY Committee on Preventive Medicine and Family Health
Thursday, September 30, 2021
Via zoom

Present

Joshua Cohen, MD Commissioner
Janine Fogarty, MD Asst.
Commissioner
Nina Huberman, MD MPH Co-chair
Sarah Nosal, MD Co-chair
Erick Eiting, MD Vice-chair
Frank Dowling, MD
Joseph Maldonado, MD
Geoffrey Moore, MD
Matthew Weissman, MD
Jocelyn Young, DO
Christian Coletta, Medical Student
Helena Mirza, Alliance

Absent

Tzvi Furer, MD

Roy Korn, MD
Emily Senay, MD
Moshie Bressler, DO

Invited Guests

William Valenti, MD Chair, Infectious
Disease Committee
Joseph Sellers, MD MSSNY President
Parag Mehta, MD MSSNY President-
elect

Staff

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

1) Welcome

2) Adoption of May 13, 2021 minutes

3) Covid 19 Update – William Valenti, MD, Chair, MSSNY Infectious Disease Committee.

a) MSSNY meeting with Commissioner of Health - Dr. Sellers gave a brief breakdown of MSSNY's meeting with Dr. Howard Zucker, the Commissioner of Health for the State of New York. The Department of Health is asking for physicians help in getting vaccines into the community. MSSNY has contacts in every county. They would assist the existing pandemic plan that is already in place. Mary Bassett, MD has been names the new health commissioner and MSSNY looks forward to meeting with her soon. On October 14th. there is a meeting with the county and specialty societies to get the plan rolling.

b) MSSNY EP and Infectious Disease Resolution to MSSNY Council –
The resolution was presented to MSSNY Council at the last meeting and after spirited discussion was passed and accepted. Basically, this resolution contains three resolves. The first resolve mandates vaccines for health care workers and support staff. The second resolve requires vaccinations for school age children once they are available. The third resolve requires mask wearing including all groups that were discussed in the previous resolves – healthcare workers, support staff, school staff and school children. MSSNY passed a resolution last year that flu vaccinations should be required. This resolve is consistent with MSSNY policy. Christian Coletta will bring the resolution to the Student Medical Section. Students feel closed off

from the general physician population. Pat Clancy will send the resolution to Christian and request Dr. Valenti attend this meeting.

Physicians need to continue advocating for vaccination. Mandatory vaccination of school age children will need to begin once approved. Mandatory masking of healthcare workers and the educational community is important. During a public health emergency, the rules change. The public health requirements will be different and more restrictive than a person's individual health rights.

There was a question asked about unethical physicians giving out vaccination waivers. The organization has to review and decide to accept or deny that waiver. The only real exemption should two reasons 1) is anaphylaxis an initial reaction to the mRNA vaccine and even that can be overcome by monitoring during the injection using epinephrine and such 2) is allergy to one of the components of the vaccine itself. Polyethylene glycol which is a component that extends the life of the vaccine. There have been allergies reported to that. Otherwise there are no known contraindications to the vaccines. So, the question is – do we need to take a stand here and provide clear concise evidence-based information regarding vaccines? If a physician does not follow the ACIP guideline's then they could eventually be subject to OPMC review. It was pointed out if it is a guideline and not a mandate the OPMC will not take action on something that is a guideline. We need to take the high road and that is articulating the science in a clear and concise way. Modeling is another way to reach out. Physicians should be vaccinated and speak to the experience to others. Role modeling in athletes also needs to be done.

One committee member's institution decided not to apply the vaccine mandate to pregnant health care workers. This is contrary to the science. Regarding pregnant women – the science says there is no indication that it is harmful to the mother or the fetus. The CDC has reported 22 deaths of unvaccinated pregnant women from Covid. Pregnant women are 2 times more likely to require ventilator assistance than others.

We need to get away from "it's your decision" and say - "I recommend the vaccine – do you trust me?"

CDC guidelines are worth listening to.

A reminder that all agencies have different responsibilities. Some must review data and give their opinion on that data. Others have to make decisions how to apply that info to patients.

Many people think their individual civil liberties override their responsibility to the public. When a public health crisis has been declared, individual liberties take a backseat to the great health of the public as a whole.

3rd doses vs booster? There is some confusion. There needs to be more guidance. There is too much time being spent discussion vs making policy to mandate boosters or 3rd shot. There will be more discussion on that coming soon.

Exemptions must be in line with standard medical exemptions.

The question – will people get their jobs back when this is over? What gets lost in this? "Public health trumps all" you can't do whatever you want if it endangers others"

The Jansen vaccine is not as effective

What is the delay in the boosters? Each company started at different times so results will arrive at different times. J&J will probably require and/or become a two dose vaccine.

4) Healthcare Workers shortage – topic for next meeting

5) Pharmacies and insurance -Pharmacies often change what insurance they will accept and do not notify the physicians office. This often causes inconvenience and delays with patients getting their medications. It is best solved with software integration so the physicians will know what pharmacies accept what insurance.

6) Committee dates for 2022 -Meetings will continue to be on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 AM

January 27, 2022

May 12, 2022

October 13, 2022

Adjourned