



## **MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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**TO: MSSNY COUNCIL**

**FROM: JOSHUA COHEN, MD, COMMISSIONER  
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EDUCATION**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION REPORT**

The following is an update on various projects that MSSNY's Division of Public Health and Education are involved in and occurred over the last year.

### **MSSNY Practice Transformation Initiative**

The Medical Society of the State of New York is collaborating with the Physicians Foundation and American Medical Association to advance research and promote evidence-based solutions that improve patient care by enhancing professional well-being and reducing physician burnout. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, MSSNY became involved in the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Physicians Foundation's Practice Transformation Initiative to help physicians and institutions reduce physician burnout by implementing evidence-based solutions, and best practices within the organization. This national initiative has helped various New York State institutions assess the wellness of physicians within the institutions and practices and then implement an intervention and then reassess well-being a year after the implementation of the intervention. Currently, MSSNY has joined with the following institutions on this PTI project: Bassett Healthcare, Ellis Medicine, Northwell Healthcare, St. Peter's Partners, and NY Presbyterian/Brooklyn.

Today, all six practice sites have administered and closed a mini-z assessment surveys amidst the COVID-19 surges and have implemented various practice interventions tailored to specific results. Each practice site was invited to attend various educational webinars in which the AMA hosted professional personal for various topics such as pre-visit planning/labs. Currently, the practice sites will be deploying post- mini-z assessment surveys which will aim to measure overall change of workplace satisfaction after each practice implemented these interventions. Given the surge of the DELTA variant, some of the practice sites will be opting to postpone their post- mini-z survey until the end of fall/beginning of winter.

### **MSSNY Telehealth Initiative**

In August 2021, MSSNY, the AMA and the Physicians Foundation also agreed to work together to develop relevant educational content, resources, measurement tools, and evaluation support to help practices with telehealth implementation. MSSNY, as part of this program, will be part of a national network and support needed to establish and

maintain strong relationships with physicians, practices, and health systems interested in implementing, optimizing, or sustaining telehealth. In addition to providing ongoing support, this year's program will emphasize the importance of realizing the true value of virtual care. MSSNY has signed four letters of agreement with: Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Northwell Health-TeleHealth Emergency Medicine, C DOC Medical Group PLLC, and Mount Sinai NOW Emergency Medicine. We are actively pursuing at least two more practices. MSSNY is much further ahead in this process than other states. Both the PTI and the TTI are led by MSSNY's Cayla Lauder.

### **MSSNY Joint Organizational Meeting on COVID 19 Vaccines**

At the request of the New York State Department of Health, a joint organizational meeting on COVID-19 vaccines, has been convened by the Medical Society of the State of New York. This group is comprised of MSSNY, various medical specialties, county medical societies executives, the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO), local county health commissioners, and officials from the New York State Department of Health. The purpose of this group is to help facilitate and promote COVID19 immunizations, ensures vaccine equity and assist with any distribution of COVID19 vaccine. MSSNY is also assisting the NYS DOH in promoting enrollment into the COVID19 vaccination program. As the Biden Administration begins immunization of children 5-11 years of age and needs the assistance of pediatricians and family physicians to provide this immunization to children. There is also a need for more physician practices to provide the booster to those adults who are eligible. MSSNY is encouraging physicians to become enrolled in this program. Information on enrolling can be found [here](#). The next meeting of this group is on November 10, 2021 from 12-1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Any physician interested in participating please contact Pat Clancy at [pclancy@mssny.org](mailto:pclancy@mssny.org).

### **Physician Wellness-- MSSNY Peer to Peer (P2P) Program**

MSSNY's P2P has over 50 peer supporters that underwent training to assist their colleagues who are need of help in dealing with work and family stressors. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the emotional issues related to this event, may also be troubling for our colleagues. The program is offered to physicians, residents and medical students and is a completely confidential and anonymous opportunity to talk with a peer about some of life stressors. Under the direction of the MSSNY's Physician Wellness and Resiliency Committee the program has established a confidential helpline phone number (1-844-P2P-PEER) and an email address ([p2p@mssny.org](mailto:p2p@mssny.org)) so that physicians may be connected with a peer 24 hours a day/7 days a week. It is anticipated that there will be refresher training, training on specific topics and training of new peers in 2022. Additionally, MSSNY has sent a survey to all peer supporters regarding what type training receive, stressors that they themselves had during the pandemic, etc. Cayla Lauder serves as the program coordinator for this program and can be reached at [clauder@mssny.org](mailto:clauder@mssny.org).

### **MSSNY Emergency Preparedness and Disaster and Terrorism Response Committee**

This committee has been actively involved in helping to educate hundreds of physicians and other healthcare providers throughout the course of the pandemic. MSSNY began its 19<sup>th</sup> year of its partnership with the New York State Department of Health in July 2021 and conducted a program at the MSSNY House of Delegates. Under Medical Matters, "Influenza in the Age of COVID19" was conducted by webinar. Medical Matters will conduct ***Psychosocial and Epidemiological Aspects of Vaccine Hesitancy*** on **Wednesday November 17, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.** William Valenti, MD, chair of MSSNY Infectious Disease Committee and a member of the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster/Terrorism Response Committee and Craig Katz, MD, vice-chair of the Emergency

Preparedness and Disaster/Terrorism Response Committee will serve as faculty for this program.

Registration is now open for this webinar **here**. MSSNY also has created a number of podcasts on topics that are timely and relevant. There are myriad timely and relevant podcasts on COVID-19 (both for physicians and patients) as well as a number of others on veterans, adult immunizations and emergency preparedness. Click here to select from all 100 of MSSNY's podcasts: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/51522> Melissa Hoffman, MSSNY Public Health Associate, is responsible for the webinars and podcasts and can be reached at [mhoffman@mssny.org](mailto:mhoffman@mssny.org).

### **Veterans Matters Program**

MSSNY continues its efforts to education physician regarding the needs of veterans through its Veterans Matters program. In 2021, MSSNY has provided several webinars, live seminars and podcasts on topics such as PTSD in Returning Veterans, TBI in Returning Veterans, Suicide in Veterans and Substance Use Disorders in Veterans. There will be a train-the-trainer session for Veterans and COVID19 on November 17, 2021. This program was developed by the Veterans Matters Planning Committee and will soon be available at as a webinar and in live seminar format. Further information is available by contacting Melissa Hoffman at [mhoffman@mssny.org](mailto:mhoffman@mssny.org).

### **MSSNY PHE Committees**

Throughout the fall, MSSNY Public Health and Education Committees have been meeting. The schedule of 2022 meetings is now available at <http://www.mssny.org/Documents/2022/2022%20Public%20Health%20Committee%20Calendar%20110221.pdf>