COVID-19 Update

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May 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

In order to provide updates on the evolving response and best practices related to the COVID-19 pandemic, AHP will be delivering brief, critical updates on an ongoing basis addressing important highlights and frequently asked questions.

You Can Do It: COVID Vaccination in the Primary Care Setting

The data doesn't lie: PCPs can help overcome vaccine hesitancy by agreeing to administer COVID vaccine within their practices. According to a recent study, three out of 10 vaccine-hesitant adults would accept vaccination if offered by their PCP.

Don't believe the early hype: Offering COVID vaccination at your practice is actually much easier than you may think. Some things to consider:

- **Believe that since vaccine is available everywhere, your practice doesn't need to vaccinate?** The issues isn't access, it's overcoming hesitancy! There are many patients who can be persuaded to be vaccinated by their trusted PCP.
- **Heard that ordering vaccine supply from NYS is onerous?** Practices in Monroe County can have vaccine redistributed to them from the Monroe County Department of Public Health. Read more **here**. Providers in other counties can be connected to **Jackie Lyttle** at the S2AY Rural Health Network to coordinate redistribution from your local health department.
- **Heard that storing vaccine is a headache?** Not really: requirements around transport, storage, and handling have loosened considerably.
- **Not enough nursing or other staff to handle a vaccination effort?** The United Way has volunteers available, including clinicians, to staff your vaccination clinics. These volunteers are already working successfully in several area private practices supporting their vaccination efforts. Contact **Kim Povec** for more information.
- **Don't think you have the time to develop and stand up a new workflow?** There are resources for workflow development, so you won't have to start from scratch.
- **Worried that you won't have enough patients willing to be vaccinated?** Don't be: you can be allocated a very small number of doses to get started.
- **Afraid of the consequences for wasting a dose?** Old news! The state's latest guidance around wastage can be summarized as, "do your best to use every dose, but not at the expense of missing an opportunity to vaccinate a willing patient."

Convinced? Here's how to get started:

Step #1: Enroll in the NYS COVID-19 Vaccination Program and obtain a COVID PIN. Enrolling does not obligate the practice to administer the COVID vaccine, so practices are encouraged to enroll even if they are not certain. **Click here for enrollment instructions,** including detailed guidance on how to complete the online application.

Step #2: Determine what resources you may need to begin vaccination. If you are in Monroe County, contact **Kathy Hiltunen** at the Monroe County Department of Public Health for guidance related to vaccine storage, handling, workflow development, etc. Outside of Monroe County, email **Jackie Lyttle** from S2AY Rural Health Network to be connected with local resources that can assist you.

Step #3: Obtain a supply of vaccine. If your practice is located in Monroe County you can quickly be allocated a vaccine supply from MCDPH. Click **here** to read the FAQs about requesting and obtaining a vaccine allocation. Primary care practices located outside of Monroe County can email **Jackie Lyttle** from S2AY Rural Health Network to coordinate redistribution from your local health department.

New Online Resources
Post Vaccination Guidelines for Schools: Return-to-school guidance related to post-vaccination symptoms developed by the Monroe County Department of Public Health and shared with area school districts.
STRONG Recommendation: Info for providers on how to effectively encourage vaccination
Webinar: How to Convince Patients to Get Vaccinated: a recorded Q&A with NYS DOH Commissioner Dr. Zucker

Next Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, May 25th, 12:15 to 1:00 pm
Join the AHP Behavioral Health team as well as members from our pharmacy, care management and social work teams every Tuesday from 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm via Zoom and/or phone for just in-time, virtual consultation support for the behavioral health needs of both your pediatric and adult patients.

Users have two options for participation:
- Phone only: Dial 1 (646) 876-9923, enter Meeting ID 92843450755 and Password 702578
- Computer: Click the link below which has the password embedded **https://urmc.zoom.us/j/92843450755pwd=c2UxS0FJM3lSUXRVRXE5bTlBNmV5dz09**

Next COVID Response Call: Wednesday, June 2nd, 12:15 to 1:00 pm
Due to the relative stability in the course of the outbreak in our community and the slower influx of information related to it, AHP's COVID-19 response calls will now be held at 12:15 pm every other Wednesday. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Wednesday, June 2nd.** Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click **https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459**

We continue to partner with Dr. Mendoza and County Health Department officials on preparedness and response protocols and will convey information as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued collaboration in this important public health endeavor.

All the best,

J. Chad Teeters, MD
Executive Medical Director

LJ Shipley, MD
Pediatric Medical Director

Renée Sutton
Senior Director, Provider Relations

Practice Resources on ahpnetwork.com

Daily Updates Archive

Patient Resources Archive

Clinical Resources Archive

Business Resources Archive

COVID-19 Resource Links

Golisano Children's Hospital Coronavirus Information for Families

Project Teach: Seven Ways to Support Kids and Teens Through the Coronavirus Pandemic,**in English** and **Spanish**

American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Site

Monroe County Health Department

CDC Coronavirus Site

New York Department of Health Coronavirus site

COVID-19 Online Databases

- **Greater Rochester Area COVID-19 Tracker**
- **Monroe County COVID-19 Dashboard**
- **NYSDOH COVID-19 Tracker**
- **NYS Nursing Home Fatalities**
- **CDC Coronavirus Interactive**
- **Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard**

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