COVID-19 Update

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May 20, 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.

New Pfizer Storage Requirements

Based on the May 19th update to its Emergency Use Authorization Fact Sheet, undiluted vials of the Pfizer vaccine may be thawed and stored in a refrigerator for up to one month. Click **here** to read the updated fact sheet. Previous guidance limited refrigerated storage to five days, so this is another development that will make it easier for primary care providers to administer Pfizer to patients.

NYS DOH Survey for Vaccinators: Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine

Shared from the NYS DOH listserv: As of May 19, the majority of the U.S. supply of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine is due to expire by June 21-23, according to Janssen's **expiration website**. NYSDOH would like to understand if you have J&J vaccine doses on hand, especially doses that will expire before the end of June. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) is committed to working with providers to redistribute their J&J vaccine supply to others who can administer J&J as quickly as possible and before the expiry date.

Please complete and submit this form by Monday, May 24 at 9:00 AM: **https://forms.ny.gov/s3/J-J-Expiry-Survey-for-Providers**. If you do not have any J&J on hand, please still complete the survey. You will only need to provide your organization information and respond to one question.

Want to be added to the NYS DOH COVID vaccine provider listserv? Send an email with a blank subject line and the words "join listserv" (without quotes) to **COVIDVACCINEPROV-L-request@LISTSERV.HEALTH.STATE.NY.US**

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 issue 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.

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
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LJ Shipley, MD
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Senior Director, Provider Relations

Practice Resources on ahpnetwork.com

Daily Updates Archive

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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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