

**MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE COUNTY OF ERIE**

WNY COVID Working Group

June 11, 2021



- The working group encourages primary care providers to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Primary care providers can leverage their trusting relationship with their patients to overcome personal barriers. A strong recommendation from a provider is associated with getting the vaccine, according to the CDC.
- The Erie County Department of Health can supply PCPs with manageable COVID-19 vaccine allotments upon request – even PCPs outside Erie County.
- Acknowledging the disproportionate burden on their specialty, primary care providers should check and document their patients' vaccine status. They should ask unvaccinated patients about their concerns and provide accurate information and recommendations.

The working group emphasizes that:

- The vaccines have been tested and approved according to traditional scientific processes.
- There is zero evidence that the vaccines affect fertility or pregnancy, as noted in our previous statement on this topic. (<https://bit.ly/3fMC6oF>)
- The vaccines are remarkably effective in building protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19 and helping keep people with no symptoms from spreading the virus. Once vaccinated, the chance of dying from Covid is about 1 in 1 million. Unvaccinated, the chance of dying from Covid is 1,816 in 1 million. Since starting mass vaccinations, cases are down 90%, hospitalizations are down 81%, and deaths are down 85%.

References:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Guide-for-Jurisdictions-on-PCP-COVID-19-Vaccination.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e3.htm>
- <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

Signed:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Gale Burstein, MD, MPH
Erie County Department of Health | Tyler Connine, MD
UB Emergency Medicine Residency |
| Rajnder Bajwa, MD
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center | Anne Constantino, MS
Horizon Corporations |
| Richard A. Carlson, Jr., MD
Primary Care IPA | John Craik, JD
Population Health Collaborative |
| Richard Charles, MD
General Physician, PC | Charlotte Crawford, RN, MSN, MBA
Lake Plains Community Health Network |
| Joe Chow, MD
Immediate Care | Tanvir Dara, MD
WellNow Urgent Care |

continued

Kathleen Dyson, MD
Community Pediatric Associates of WNY

Aimana ElBahtity, Esq.
Medical Society of Erie County

John Fudyma, MD, MPH
Latus Medical Care

Ken Garbarino, MD
Family Choice of New York

Kevin Gibbons, MD
UBMD

Kathleen Grisanti, MD
Pediatric and Adolescent Urgent Care
of WNY

Ed Heidelberger, MD, PhD
Bertrand Chaffee Hospital

Donna Kahem, SPHR
Southern Tier Health Care System

Allana Krolikowski, MD
Jericho Road

Jeffrey Lackner, PsyD
UB Division of Behavioral Medicine

Charlene Ludlow, RN, MHA
Erie County Medical Center

James C. Matteliano, DDS
Eighth District Dental Society

Jason Matuszak, MD
Excelsior Orthopaedics

Jennifer McVige, MD
Dent Neurologic Institute

Mike Merrill, MD, MS, MBA
Independent Health

Katherine Mullin, MD
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jamie Nadler, MD
Kaleida Health

Margaret Paroski, MD, MMM
Catholic Medical Partners

Sucharita Paul, MD, MPH
UBMD Emergency Medicine

Mark F. Perry, MD
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of
Western New York

John Sellick, DO, MS
VA Western New York Healthcare System

Samuel Shatkin, MD
Aesthetic Associates Centre

Kevin Shiley, MD
Catholic Health

Stephen Turkovich, MD
Oishei Children's Hospital

Willie Underwood, MD, MSc, MPH
Buffalo Center for Health Equity

Raul Vazquez, MD
Urban Family Practice

Andrea J. Wanat, MA
Value Network IPA

Marty Wesolowski, DO, MBA
Martin's Point

Joyce Zmuda, MD
Optimum Physician Alliance

The ILI/COVID Working Group of Western New York was formed in response to local variation in approach to the diagnosis and treatment of Influenza-Like-Illness and COVID-19 in the region. It is a collaborative effort of hospital systems, academic departments, independent practice associations, and insurers. The logos and signatures on this document represent the organizations' support of this statement.

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