

In This Issue

- State Agencies Warn of COVID Vaccine Text Message Scam
- COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers Blocked
- CDC Now Recommends Booster for Anyone 18+
- Workers' Comp Rates to Decrease for Fifth Consecutive Year
- Marketplace Open Enrollment Now Thru January 15, 2022
- Reminder - MSD 2022 Membership Renewal Period Begins

Reminders

2021 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

Get your 2021 HIPAA, mandatory OSHA, & BLS training scheduled with MSD Compliance Coordinator Dwayne Downs at 302-366-1023.

MSD IS ON FACEBOOK

"Like" the Medical Society of Delaware Facebook page for informative posts, pictures and events. Like & Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalSocietyofDelaware/> or [@medicalsocietyofdelaware](https://www.facebook.com/medicalsocietyofdelaware/) and turn on your notifications.

RENAL ROUNDS – LECTURE SERIES

December 9th at 7 pm. To register <https://tinyurl.com/4yc3t7pf>

Contact MSD

302-366-1400
MedicalSocietyofDelaware.org
To unsubscribe contact
Kristie Stewart at
302-224-5196
Kristie.Stewart@medsocdel.org

State Agencies Warn of COVID Vaccine Text Message Scam

The Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles is advising the public of a scam alert. DeIDOT has received inquiries about the validity of a text message requiring recipients to verify their COVID-19 vaccination status with a link to click. This is NOT a communication from the Division of Motor Vehicles and should be ignored and deleted. The Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles does not send vaccination status verification notices via text message, nor is personal information (driver license number, Social Security number, or payment information) requested via text. If you receive such a text message, report it to your local law enforcement. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/y22k4r9e>.

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers Blocked

A federal judge this week blocked the Biden administration from enforcing a coronavirus vaccine mandate on thousands of health care workers across ten states, the first legal challenge against the requirement. The mandate covers certain health care staff at providers that participate in Medicare and Medicaid and set a December 6 deadline for those workers to have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Judge cited that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) had no clear authority from Congress to enact the mandate for providers participating in the two government health care programs. In a similar ruling that followed, a US District Judge in Louisiana temporarily blocked CMS from enforcing its vaccine mandate for health care workers which applied nationwide, except in the ten states where CMS was already prevented from enforcing the rule. A workplace vaccine or testing mandate for businesses with at least 100 employees was temporarily blocked by a federal appeals court in early November. Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/4pxpk5cs> and <https://tinyurl.com/bjjzavn2>.

CDC Now Recommends Booster for Anyone 18+

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced (<https://tinyurl.com/yckxrrd6>) it is now recommending that anyone 18 years of age and older receive the COVID-19 booster shot after completing the first course of vaccination. The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is currently monitoring the science around a new variant, which the World Health Organization has named Omicron (B.1.1.529). This variant was first reported in South Africa and has since been detected in several other countries. As of today, no cases of this variant have been identified in Delaware Variant strains of the COVID-19 virus are to be expected. While we still have more to learn about the Omicron variant, DPH advises Delawareans to continue doing what we know works: get vaccinated, wear a mask in indoor public settings, socially distance from others, and wash your hands regularly. Delawareans who are 5 years and older and have not received the vaccine should do so as soon as possible. DPH encourages those who have been vaccinated to complete the full vaccination series and receive a vaccine booster dose if eligible. Read the booster fact sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/53b29utn>.

Workers' Comp Rates to Decrease for Fifth Consecutive Year

Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro announced Monday that workers' compensation insurance rates will decrease for the fifth year in a row, effective December 1, 2021. The voluntary market is seeing yet another double-digit decrease in voluntary market loss costs, with an average 20.02% reduction, and residual market rates will go down an average of 20.01%. Lower premiums do not change the amount of compensation an injured employee receives. The Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau agreed to the lower rates after discussion with the Department of Insurance and the State's Ratepayer Advocate. More than 1,100 employers are saving even more money on their workers' compensation premiums by participating in the department's Workplace Safety Program. Eligible businesses can earn up to a 19% discount on their insurance by successfully undergoing annual safety inspections and complying with associated recommendations. Organizations interested in participating can access questionnaires <https://tinyurl.com/2p8b7m74> and contact safety@delaware.gov to begin the process.

Reminder - MSD 2022 Membership Renewal Period Begins

The 2022 membership renewals are being prepared for all current members. We are pleased to inform you that 2022 membership renewal rates have remained the same with no increase. MSD has worked hard on your behalf and has expanded its reach to include environmental health issues, as well as to begin working on diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and throughout the health care system. Your 2022 membership renewal can be completed by logging into the MSD website or by mail. All 2022 membership renewals are due by January 1, 2022. Please contact MSD Membership Manager Michelle Seymour with any questions at (302) 224-4905 or Michelle.Seymour@medsocdel.org.