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## Reminders

### 2022 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

Get your 2022 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. <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalSocietyofDelaware/> or @medicalsocietyofdelaware

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### MSD/VIP Lunch and Learn Session

Join us Wednesday, January 12 at 12:00 pm for a FREE informative virtual one-hour session about the MSD Voluntary Initiative Program (VIP) and how it supports patients enrolled in the state's Health Care Connection Program. You'll learn about participating in the VIP network, the benefits for physicians and patients, and resources available to your practice. The event is open to physicians (including those who are already enrolled in VIP), allied health professionals, office managers, etc. To register visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/VIP2022>.

### MSD 2022 Insurance Payer Workshop (Virtual)

Start the new year off right and register for the MSD Insurance Payer Workshop on Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Receive the latest updates by the major insurance payers for 2022. Representatives from Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Highmark, United Healthcare, and CMS will present. To register, visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/InsuranceWorkshop2022>.

### CDC Expands Booster Eligibility/Recommendations for 12-17 Year-Olds

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is endorsing the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation to expand eligibility of booster doses to those 12 to 15 years old. CDC now recommends that adolescent's age 12 to 17 years old should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 12-17. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/2rxfpzn9>.

### No Surprises Act In Effect As Of January 1

The No Surprises Act, which bans most unexpected medical charges from out-of-network providers, went into effect as of January 1 and will apply to about 10 million surprise bills a year. The law protects patients when they receive emergency care or scheduled treatment from doctors and hospitals that are not in the patients' insurance networks and that they did not choose. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released 11 documents (<https://tinyurl.com/45vk9aem>) to help providers comply with the No Surprises Act's requirement that providers give patients a "good faith estimate" of expected charges. Providers and facilities will need to be able to inform patients, both orally and in writing, of a cost estimate if they are not enrolled in a plan or are covered by a federal health care program, or who are not seeking to file a claim with their insurance for care. View the CDC Fact Sheet on Patients' Rights at <https://tinyurl.com/9pbe93rf>.

### Antigen Tests May be Less Effective in Detecting Omicron Variant

The Omicron variant has significantly more mutations than previous SARS-CoV-2 variants, particularly in its S-gene, the gene that encodes the virus's spike protein. On December 28th, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that antigen tests may be less effective in detecting the highly contagious Omicron variant of COVID-19. Early data suggests antigen tests do detect the Omicron variant but may have reduced sensitivity. The FDA recommended a follow-up molecular test for people who are experiencing symptoms or have a high likelihood of infection due to exposure even if they have tested negative with an antigen test. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8jr2xy>.

### At-home COVID-19 Testing Kits Available Saturday

New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer has announced a plan to distribute 6,000 antigen COVID-19 self-test kits to New Castle County residents. Kits will be distributed on Saturday, January 8th beginning at 10 am at the New Castle County Government Center. One box (two tests) of iHealth's rapid antigen test will be given per car, along with a sheet of instructions. Members of the distribution team will be at the locations from 10 am until 2 pm, or while supplies last. The New Castle County Government Center is located at 87 Reads Way, New Castle, DE 19720. For more information visit [facebook.com/nccde](https://facebook.com/nccde).

### December Tornado Disaster Relief

Sixty-eight confirmed tornadoes tore across ten US states on Friday, December 10th, and Saturday, December 11th leaving a path of destruction and death. The Southeastern Delegation of the American Medical Association is a coalition of sixteen states, of which Delaware is a member. The recent tornadoes impacted several of our Southeastern Delegation family states. The Southeastern Delegation is asking for all the states in the coalition to spread the word to encourage donations. MSD is sharing the letter that was sent out to the Southeastern Delegation states asking for assistance to help those in need. If you can help, please do. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p94hy6z>.