

December 11, 2020

Good afternoon,

Last evening was the first night of Hanukkah. While this year's celebration will look different than those in the past, it remains an occasion to reconnect with others, which is more important than ever. We send our best wishes to those colleagues who are celebrating the holiday.

Vaccine Updates

Stage Set for Pfizer Vaccine to receive EUA Approval from the FDA

- An independent FDA advisory committee said that the benefits of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine outweigh the risks, setting the stage for the agency to authorize emergency use of the shot for people 16 and older
- The vaccine from Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech is the first COVID-19 shot to undergo FDA review
- The federal government is poised to launch a massive vaccination campaign early next week if the agency allows the shot's use
- To view the whole review process: <https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-december-10-2020-meeting-announcement>

Kaleida Health COVID-19 Vaccine

- If approval goes as planned, Kaleida Health expects to receive the vaccine as early as next week
- Plans are still being finalized for distribution, but providers in high-risk area will receive priority status
- More to follow when available

Mini-Grand Rounds: Update on Vaccines for COVID-19: Help is on the Way!

- Dr. Timothy Murphy gave an impactful presentation on the science behind the current vaccine and what to expect moving forward
- It is available at: <https://opawny.com/for-physicians/mini-grand-round-series/resource:12-09-2020-12-00am-update-on-vaccines-for-covid-19-help-is-on-the-way/>

Vaccine Prioritization Matrix

	High COVID-19 Prevalence in Geographic Area	Low COVID-19 Prevalence in Geographic Area
High Risk Population/ Essential Healthcare Workers	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2
Lower Risk Population/ Other Essential Workers	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4
General Population	PRIORITY 5	PRIORITY 6

Figure 1 Source: NYSDOH

- NYS has outlined its general plan for distributing the vaccine
- At a high level, it prioritizes those at greatest risk
- The full plan is available at: https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_COVID_Vaccination_Program_Book_10.16.20_FINAL.pdf

Vaccine Registration

- The NYSDOH has developed a COVID-19 Vaccination Program for providers
- It describes the steps that your practice needs to take if it wishes to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to patients
- Information is available here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-information-providers>

COVID-19 Updates

Hospital Census: As of 1 p.m. today, there were 195 patients in Kaleida Health hospitals who had been diagnosed with COVID-19. 158 were in medical beds and 37 in the ICU. To learn more: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15240>

Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of December 9, 2020)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity
Erie County	7.8% (7.0% rolling average)	761	50%
New York State	5.2% (5.2% rolling average)	10,257	46%
United States	11.19%	221,267	n/a

Source:

- erie.gov/covidtestsites
- <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
- <https://covidactnow.org/us/ny/>

Testing: Testing remains a key component of managing this pandemic, and there are several sites around the community:

- The Erie County DOH has put together a resource page (<https://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=covid-19-testing-information>)
- NYSDOH has put together resources for patients getting testing outside of Erie County. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 1-888-364-3065

Provider Updates

Accessing Need-to-Know COVID-19 Information from Home: KaleidaScope is a source of truth for all COVID-19-related resources. However, there are some ways to access need-to-know information from outside Kaleida Health's network. Important clinical care pathway documents for providers are posted externally at: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/coronavirus/#providers>.

Hospital Updates

Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital in the News: There was a story on WKBW recently which helped tell the story of some of the challenges that healthcare workers and the system in general face as they care for patients with COVID-19. See it at: <https://www.wkbw.com/news/i-team/inside-the-icu-covid-cases-increasing-daily-icu-becoming-full-at-millard-fillmore-suburban>

WGRZ-TV: NYS awaits FDA approval of COVID-19 vaccine: Dr. John Sellick discusses the COVID-19 vaccine. It is online at: <https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/local/nys-awaits-fda-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine/71-a7527746-91af-4679-9574-787953d9878e>

Learning Opportunities

What Every Clinician Should Know about COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

- The CDC will be hosting a webinar on December 14 from 1-2 p.m. discussing the COVID-19 vaccine
- It can be accessed at: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_121420.asp

AAFP to Host Town Hall on COVID-19 Vaccines

- The American Academy of Family Practice will be holding a virtual town hall on December 16 from 8-9 p.m.
- To learn more: <https://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/20201209vacctownhall.html>

Literature Updates

Challenges in creating herd immunity to SARS-CoV-2 infection by mass vaccination

- An article was published in Lancet discussing the impact of the vaccine on society in general. It is an important article in helping shape our understanding of what is coming next
- The full article is available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32318-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32318-7/fulltext)

Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomized controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK

- An article was published in Lancet discussing the Astra Zeneca vaccine
- The authors found ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 has an acceptable safety profile and has been found to be efficacious against symptomatic COVID-19 in this interim analysis of ongoing clinical trials

- The full article is available at:
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32661-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32661-1/fulltext)

Today's theme is about playing out the end game. Recently chess – that most ancient of games – is having a renewed moment of celebrity. Boredom from the pandemic and shows like Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit," have afforded the chess board a moment in the sun that it has not seen for some time. It also offers us an interesting metaphor for what we are all experiencing at this moment. For those new to chess or new to Netflix, the queen's gambit is an opening move which allows one player to take an early lead in the match. It garners attention, but at the end of the day, it does not matter nearly as much as the outcome. The path towards an outcome – often called the end game – is a series of moves, sometimes drawn out over a seemingly long period of time that ultimately decides who wins. That is where we are today. We are playing the end game. This does not mean that we have won, or lost, in our struggle against the pandemic. Instead, it means that the pieces are where we need them to be. We still need to be careful. We need to wear masks and face shields. We need to do all the things we know can keep us safe. We need to take care of our patients. When our turn comes, we need to get the vaccine and encourage others to do the same. We still need to finish the work in front of us. There are still many challenges to pass, but if we hold the course and do what we know we must, then we will be one step closer to beating the pandemic.

As always, your input is critical to ensure that this brief meets the needs of the community. Please send comments to coronavirusupdates@kaleidahealth.org.

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Questions

If you have questions, please reach out (coronavirusupdates@kaleidahealth.org), and we will do our best to get you the information you need.