

Kaleida Health
COVID-19 Update

December 18, 2020

Good afternoon,

On this date in 1777, the United States celebrated its first official Thanksgiving as a nation following a long battle against the British. While we are in the midst of a different holiday season, today is a good day to be thankful for the victories we have had in our own struggles during the past year.

Vaccine Updates

FDA advisory panel endorses Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine, clearing way for authorization

- Yesterday, a team of scientific advisers at the FDA concluded that “based on the totality of scientific evidence available, the benefits of the mRNA-1273 COVID-19 Vaccine outweigh its risks for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.”
- Final approval is expected today, and this will allow the Moderna vaccine to join Pfizer's as the second mechanism for preventing COVID disease.
- The panels full assessment is available here: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144434/download>

Kaleida Health Vaccination Program



- Vaccinations are already underway for eligible staff, providers, residents, and fellows in high-risk areas at Buffalo General Medical Center (BGMC), Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital (MFSH), Oishei Children's Hospital (OCH), and DeGraff Medical Park (DMP)
- Vaccine supplies remain limited, and priority is being given to those in high-risk units as is required by the NYS Department of Health
- Anyone who is eligible to receive a vaccine will receive an email with a link to schedule their appointment as well as further instructions. If you do not receive a confirmation email upon registration, your registration was not successful, and you do not have an appointment
- To learn more: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15301>

Getting the Word Out!



- Dr. Paul Shields has prepared a wonderful video about the vaccine that urges healthcare workers to understand, research and get vaccinated.
- I am including the link here in hopes that you will share with your colleagues.

- We will only turn the corner of this pandemic if we work together. Please help share information about the vaccine and the important role it will play in assuring a safe community
- The link is available at: <https://youtu.be/OwaN8aBlSP8>

Mini Grand Rounds: COVID-19 Vaccine and Pregnancy

- We will be restarting the Wednesday Mini Grand Round series earlier than expected due to significant interest in the question of safety during pregnancy during COVID-19
- On January 6, 2021 at 7:30 a.m., Drs. Sarah Berga and Heather Link will discuss this important topic
- To join the meeting: <https://lynctimeet.kaleidahealth.org/droman/M4TTL8WD>

COVID-19 Updates

Hospital Census: As of 1 p.m. today, there were 163 patients in Kaleida Health hospitals who had been diagnosed with COVID-19. 129 were in medical beds and 34 in the ICU. To learn more:

<https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15313>

Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of December 16, 2020)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity
Erie County	7.5% (6.8% rolling average)	749	47%
New York State	5.4% (5.2% rolling average)	10,914	30%
United States	11.44%	233,271	n/a

Source:

erie.gov/covidtestsites

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

<https://covidactnow.org/us/ny/>

Practice Updates

COVID-19 CPT Vaccine and Immunization Codes

- The AMA has released new CPT codes for practices given the COVID-19 vaccine
- These CPT codes, developed based on extensive collaboration with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are unique for each of two coronavirus vaccines as well as administration codes unique to each such vaccine and dose
- The new CPT codes clinically distinguish each COVID-19 vaccine for better tracking, reporting and analysis that supports data-driven planning and allocation
- To learn more: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/covid-19-cpt-vaccine-and-immunization-codes>

Erie County Department of Health Shifts Information Line Hours and Changes Schedule for Holidays

- The Erie County Department of Health is announcing an update to its COVID-19 Information Line hours, and changes to its hours of operation for upcoming holiday dates

- To learn more: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15296>

Telehealth

- As telehealth becomes an increasingly important part of how we deliver care, Kaleida Health has put together a tip sheet for best practices around “webside manner”
- It is available at: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/coronavirus/support/providers/resources/Telehealth-WebsideManner-Infographic.pdf>

In the News

"Your Hometown Health Connection"



Drs Sellick and Snyder appeared on local news this week to discuss the surge and how the healthcare community has rallied to meet the challenges of COVID-19.

- The program is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9o8UWiOghfk>

Updates in the Literature

All-Cause Excess Mortality and COVID-19–Related Mortality Among US Adults Aged 25-44 Years, March-July 2020

- An article was published in JAMA discussing impact of COVID on young adults
- The authors found the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality among US adults aged 25 to 44 years
- The full article is available at: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2774445>

Today's theme is about building cathedrals. I once heard Chaplain Erik Alfsen tell the story of a 15th Century architect Sir Christopher Wren. Wren was overseeing the construction of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. One day, as the story goes, Wren was on the site when he encountered two stone masons. He approached the first and asked about his work. The mason replied that he was expertly cutting stones so that they would fit perfectly with the others, but that it was hard and tiring work. Wren then went on to the second mason and asked the same question. That mason replied that he was helping build a cathedral that would inspire others for centuries. When he left work each night, he went home energized because he was working on something that would touch countless lives. This story is particularly fitting today as we find ourselves deep in the third wave of the pandemic. It has become exhausting. Energy reserves have been tapped and emotions are strained. There is an end in sight, but it is not here yet. Today, I would ask that you pause to reflect on why it is that we are here. Our work has purpose beyond the immediate tasks that we are doing. Our work is about defending the health of this community. It is hard. It will be exhausting, and we all need to look after one another to ensure that the burden does not become too great, but at the end of the day, our work will be reflected in the health of an entire community who rests easier at night knowing we are there for them.

Daily Brief Updates: Because of the upcoming holidays, there will only be an update on Tuesday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 29. Our usual Friday reports will be paused.

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.