

**Minutes**  
**MSSNY Committee on Infectious Diseases**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2024**  
**7:30AM via zoom**

**Present**

William Valenti, MD Chair  
Karen Myrie, MD Co-Vice Chair  
Anthony Battista, MD  
James Braun, MD  
Philip Kaplan, MD  
Richard Silvera, MD  
Monica Sweeney, MD MPH  
Thomas Ciccolella, Medical Student

**Guests**

Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS  
Brianna Norton, MD

**Staff**

Patricia Clancy, Sr. VP/Managing  
Director  
Melissa Hoffman, Asst. Director of  
Public Health  
Brian M Land, Administrative Assistant

**Absent**

Carmen Rodriguez, MD  
Danielle P. Wales MD  
Junaid Farooq, MD

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

**1) Welcome; new committee members.**

**2) Adoption of January 25, 2024, Minutes - approved**

**3) 2024 House of Delegates—Principles of Public Health During an Infectious Disease Outbreak** – The HOD accepted this resolution and it is now policy

**4) Vaccine Equity Discussion** – Dr. William Valenti and Dr. Phil Kaplan introduced a discussion stating that vaccine purchase has become a problem, particularly evident due to the privatization of the Covid vaccine. Dr. Kaplan noted that there is vaccine wastage, particularly among the minority vaccine purchase group. Per Dr. Kaplan, the Academy of Family Physician’s recommends public purchase of all vaccines except for the tetanus vaccine. Pat Clancy verifies MSSNY’s support of the public purchase of vaccines, noting that the Department of Health in previous years was also in support but it was determined to not be fiscally feasible. Dr. Kaplan and Pat Clancy will procure a white paper from the Department of Health to assist with developing a more tangible and fiscally viable policy in regard to reducing vaccine wastage and the public purchase of vaccines. Pat Clancy will put this on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

**5) NYS HCV Testing Law Requirement to require the offer of an HCV screening test to all adults and persons under 18 years of age with an identified risk--Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS, Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology, New York State Department**

27 **of Health** – Colleen Flanagan highlighted universal screening  
28 recommendations for Hep C, with an implementation date set for May 3 to  
29 achieve elimination goals by 2030 in New York State. Provider reporting  
30 obligations under public health law were stressed for monitoring progress  
31 effectively. Brianna Norton discussed advancements in Hep C treatment,  
32 highlighting direct-acting antivirals’ high cure rates. Her presentation  
33 emphasized the importance of adherence for successful outcomes, along with  
34 simplifying dosing regimens, and introducing universal screening among  
35 adults and pregnant individuals to help curb rising Hep C infections. Various  
36 elimination options were discussed, including enhanced testing protocols,  
37 timely diagnosis and treatment among Hep C susceptible individuals and  
38 advanced treatment options. Dr. Valenti will do a podcast with Colleen  
39 Flannigan and Brianna Norton for further discussion on this topic.

40  
41 **6) Next meeting: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

42