



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI SUPPORTS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, August 19, 2021 — August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) and MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is highlighting this month to stress the importance of immunizations. It is imperative for everyone, young and old, to be up to date on recommended vaccines.

Immunizations can help prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. Don't forget, immunizations aren't just for kids — to stay protected against serious illnesses like the flu, measles, and pneumonia, adults need to get vaccinated too. And while vaccines prime your body to fight infection, you cannot catch an illness from the vaccine. If you haven't already done so, check with your physicians about what vaccinations are needed for you and/or your children, especially vaccines that are needed for school. Adults, pregnant women, and teenagers will require different vaccinations than young children. Adults will need a booster shot every 10 years to help protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and everyone age 6 months and older needs a seasonal flu shot every year.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted a lot, including patient's ability to attend important appointments and receive routine vaccinations. Some patients have had to postpone or cancel appointments and still may not be caught up on needed healthcare. Neglecting vaccines could cause us to see outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in the US and around the world. Combined with the Delta variant of COVID-19, the impact of outbreaks could be devastating for families and the healthcare system at-large.

MedChi has long advocated for accessibility to vaccinations and has supported numerous vaccine related bills over the years. As part of this support, we have collaborated with Atlantic Health Partners for many years in order to help our members strengthen their immunization performance by taking an active role in providing reimbursement guidance, advocacy, and timely updates.

MedChi's Committee on Ethics and Judicial Affairs will also be hosting a panel discussion on whether to mandate vaccinations or not. This discussion will be part of MedChi's Fall House of Delegates meeting that will be taking place on November 6, 2021.

Dr. Shannon Pryor, President of MedChi, states "as we are trying to cut off the spread of the Delta variant, not only is it important for people to get the COVID vaccination if they have not done so already, but also staying up to date on all other routine vaccinations. This will help to keep our hospitals and ICU's from being over capacity."

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.