

SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 26 | FEB 2022 |



REMINDERS



Join us for the
SMP Volunteer
Meeting on Feb 18, 2022
at 11:00 AM.

- To join by computer
Click [HERE](#)
- To join by phone dial
646-558-8656, Meeting
ID: 533 682 2516

Hello,

We hope you are staying safe and warm during the recent snowstorm and freezing weather. A reminder that if you or someone you know needs assistance during these cold weather months, you can apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program. (HEAP). Find out more information on eligibility, [HERE](#)

Fraudulent Activity with COVID-19 Continues

Across the country, COVID-19 scams are on the rise:

- A recent article in a Nevada Newspaper claimed callers representing themselves as Public Health department employees are offering to schedule residents for an emergency vaccination clinic. The scammer then asks for their personal information.
- Last month, we alerted beneficiaries to COVID-19 testing scams, including fake home testing kits and fake testing sites. [FLYER](#)
- On page 2, we review scams involving antiviral drug access and telehealth.

We will discuss these scams in more detail during our volunteer meeting on February 18th. See everyone then!

- NY StateWide Senior Action Council Staff

Let's Plan for 2022!

We emailed you a [SURVEY](#) with questions about volunteer opportunities that may interest you.



Please complete the survey by February 7th. Your feedback is very important and will help us to plan our program for the new year. Thanks!



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Be on the Lookout

The SMP has been hearing reports about Annual Wellness Visit Questionnaire calls.

- These are not legitimate. If you get a call like this, hang up.
- Call your doctor's office and see if they called you.
- If you have given out or confirmed your Medicare number over the phone to a potential scammer, contact the NYS SMP to make a report and get help with protecting your Medicare number. 800-333-4374



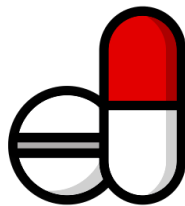
Telehealth Services were up 6000% in 2020.

- Telehealth services are a benefit for many people who are unable to physically go to a doctor's office.
- Scammers realize this and are using it to their advantage. **Be sure to review your Medicare statements and see if you have been charged for any telehealth service you did not receive or did not schedule.**



Antiviral Drug Access

- As new drugs are developed in relation to COVID-19, be on the lookout for scam artists using this opportunity to steal your information.
- If you are contacted about any type of antiviral drug for the treatment or cure of COVID-19, hang up and report it to the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol.

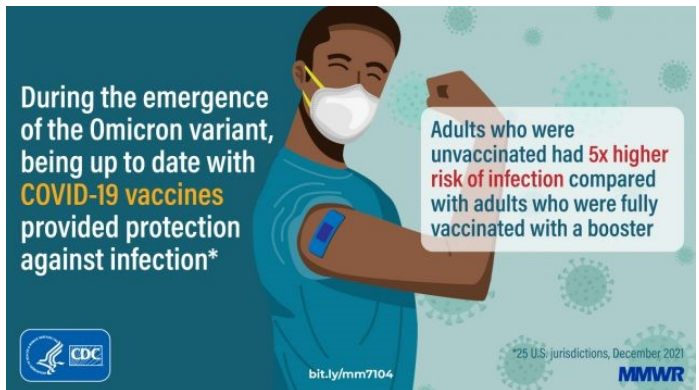


Source: smpresource.org

Power of Boosters

The CDC recently published data on COVID outcomes among people who have received booster shots. ([More Information, CDC.gov](#))

The good news is that once you get a booster, your risk of getting severely ill from COVID is small, even if you are older or have health problems.



Attention Medicare Beneficiaries:

- No Copayments.
- No Coinsurance.
- No Deductible.



Don't provide any money upfront when getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Provide your Medicare card and Medicare will be billed.

Haiku: *(click on mask for more information)*



If your masks come in/
a package that's not secured/
shut, be suspicious.

Source: NYT Hidden Haiku

STATE WIDE

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