

Med-Sense Guaranteed Association JOURNAL

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Inside the Largest and Fastest COVID-19 Vaccine Operation

By plane, boat and foot, 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines are making their way to some of the most remote corners of the globe as part of the largest and fastest vaccine operation in history.

To help ensure an equitable global vaccine distribution and end the pandemic as quickly as possible, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partners have been called upon by GAVI, the global vaccine alliance, to lead procurement and distribution efforts for the COVAX Facility, helping vaccines reach 180 countries by the end of 2021.

The largest vaccine buyer in the world, UNICEF reaches almost half the population of children with routine immunizations every year and has 75 years of experience responding to public health emergencies around the globe. Before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, (the organization was already providing support, and has delivered more than 200 million masks to more than 100 countries.

From Warehouse to Health Facility

From its humanitarian warehouse that can deliver supplies anywhere within 72 hours, UNICEF is expected to transport up to 850 tons of COVID-19 vaccines per month in 2021, more than double its average vaccine shipment. To support this increase, the organization established the Humanitarian Airfreight Initiative where more than 10 leading airlines have committed to prioritizing shipments of COVID-19 vaccines, essential medicines, medical devices and other critical supplies.

The organization is also working with governments, helping prepare their infrastructures to rapidly receive vaccines. To store and preserve doses, 70,000 cold-chain fridges, including solar fridges, will be installed in health facilities mainly in Africa by end of year.

Protecting Communities

To promote safe vaccinations, health care workers are partaking in training on COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling

and administration. The organization expects to provide 1 billion syringes for injections and 5 million safety boxes for proper needle disposal. Each safety box carries 100 syringes and helps prevent accidental needle injuries that could potentially transmit blood borne diseases.

A Long Road to Recovery

For children and families around the world, this recovery effort is crucial. According to UNICEF data, this is the first year that poverty rates are expected to increase in 25 years. Additionally, 6.7 million children are at risk of severe malnutrition due to food insecurity caused by COVID-19, and over 1 billion children were forced out of school since lockdowns began.

Equitable access to a vaccine helps mitigate public health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Only once the spread slows and stops can people begin to reimagine and build a better future for children and families. This mission takes a joint effort, starting in laboratories and warehouses and ending in local communities.

To learn more about keeping safe or help fund the operation, visit unicefusa.org/COVIDvaccines.



Article reprinted from Family Features



With ASPCA Pet Health Insurance, you can choose the care you want when your pet is hurt or sick and have the comfort of knowing they have coverage.

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Swimming Safety Tips for Summer

Playing in or around water is one of the joys of summer, but this treasured seasonal pastime comes with some serious risks. Drowning is the second-leading cause of accidental death for children under the age of 14 in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, many families will have informal gatherings and take trips to the beach, increasing the potential for children to have unsupervised access to water. Because of this, it's important for children to take swimming lessons to learn water safety skills and create safer habits in and around water. As swimming lessons begin across the country, many are being conducted safely with COVID-19 precautions in place.

Protect your family's safety around water this summer with these tips from the Make a Splash Tour, presented by Phillips 66 and the USA Swimming Foundation.

Designate a Water Watcher and Closely Monitor Children. Designate a water watcher when you are in, on or around water. Watch all children and adolescents swimming or playing in or around water, even if they know how to swim. Keeping young children or inexperienced swimmers within arm's length at all times can help ensure you're able to provide assistance if and when it's needed.

Wear a Life Jacket. Anyone participating in any boating, paddling or towed water sports, regardless of swimming ability in pool or open water situations, should wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Preschool-aged children (5 years old and younger), who are not protected by touch supervision, in particular, should always wear a life jacket. Swimming aids and water toys – such as water wings, inflatable water wings and rings – are not intended to be life-saving devices.

Learn to Swim. Research has shown formal swimming lessons reduce the risk of childhood drowning by 88%. Through the annual Make a Splash Tour, the USA Swimming Foundation, with the support of Phillips 66, encourages children's swim lessons. By equipping your child with the skill of swimming, you'll open doors to a lifetime of safety, fun, fitness and even employment opportunities.

While lessons progressively teach a variety of swimming strokes, some of the most important things swimmers learn – even in beginner classes – are breath control and how to float. These basic skills are essential for staying above water should someone find himself or herself unable to touch or too tired to swim to safety. Children can participate in swimming lessons before they can walk, and parent-child swim lessons provide bonding opportunities along with water safety education.

Swim in Designated Areas and Obey Posted Signs and Flags. Ropes, buoys and flags in larger bodies of water like lakes or oceans are commonly used to mark off safe swimming areas and provide visual cues about changes in depth, underwater surfaces and currents. Teach children what these signs and markers mean and that they're in place as safety tools, not toys to play with or float on.

Learn CPR. If the unthinkable does happen, knowing how to perform CPR allows you to take immediate action, which has been shown to significantly better the outcome for children with submersion injuries. In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, you could save someone's life. Seconds count; the quicker CPR is started, the better the chances of recovery. There are many places that offer CPR training, including community organizations and nonprofit groups. Remember to keep your certification current once you have completed the initial requirements.

Make safety a priority for your summer water fun. For more information, including swim lesson providers in your area, visit usaswimming.org/makeasplash.

Article reprinted from Family Features



Travel Assistance Plan

Key Features:

- Emergency evacuation.
- Medically necessary repatriation.
- Transportation of mortal remains. In the event of the death of an insured, the assistance company will provide for the return of mortal remains.
- Transportation of Traveling Companion. In the event an insured requires emergency medical evacuation by air ambulance or repatriation by commercial air.
- Family Visitation. When a member is traveling alone and is hospitalized for more than seven (7) consecutive days, the Assistance company will arrange transportation to the place of hospitalization for a chosen person by the insured, provided repatriation is not imminent.
- Vehicle return.
- 24-hour Information Service.
- Medical Monitoring.
- Medical Referral. Should the Participant need help locating a Physician or Hospital, the Assistance Provider will provide referrals to a local prequalified Physician and/or Hospital.
- Guarantee of Medical Expenses.
- Insurance Coordination.
- Lost Documentation Service.
- Legal Assistance.
- Emergency Delivery of Prescription Items.
- Emergency Cash Transfer and Advances.
- Language Assistance.

Why Travel Assistance?

As a member of Med-Sense Guaranteed Association, you receive benefits through the Travel Assistance Program when traveling more than one hundred (100) miles from your permanent place of Residence, and the trip duration is ninety (90) consecutive days or less if an accidental injury or sickness commences during the course of the covered trip.

**Log in to the website at
www.medsensememberson.com
for complete benefit details!**





MSGGA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MSGGA will be accepting scholarship applications June 7 through July 31

In 2020, MSGGA proudly awarded 28 college scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each to MSGGA members and their dependents.

For the 2021-2022 school year, MSGGA plans to continue this scholarship program. These scholarships will be awarded August 1, 2021.

To be eligible, applicants must be able to demonstrate how their scholarship funds will be used to help with their academic success. The Scholarship Committee will also review letters of recommendation, overall GPA, and the student's goals when awarding scholarships.

Information regarding the 2021-2022 scholarship program will be e-mailed to MSGGA members starting June 1. You can also find more information by logging into the member website at www.medsensemembers.com.

For information regarding your membership
and association services, call or write:

**Membership Services Office
Med-Sense Guaranteed Association
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Suite 140
St. Louis, MO 63131
1-800-992-8044 or (636) 530-7200**

Articles in this newsletter are meant to be informative, enlightening, and helpful to you. While all information contained herein is meant to be completely factual, it is always subject to change. Articles are not intended to provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Consult your doctor before starting any exercise program.



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