

DEVELOPMENTAL  
& BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

# NEWSLETTER



A monthly newsletter for families of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center during COVID-19 Social Distancing



Looking for a vaccine site that is specially trained on working with children who have autism or unique sensory needs? Check out <https://vaxabilities.com/> for sites and information.

## Vaccines for kids 5-11

The state of Massachusetts has just announced that children ages 5 to 11 years old are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine! For a child to receive the vaccine, a caregiver must fill out a consent form, but they do not need proof of identification or insurance to get it. Before your child's appointment, talk to them about what they should expect. Additionally, inform the doctor of any allergies your child has and consider bringing items that would comfort or distract your child during the visit. Know that you will be asked to stay 15-30 minutes after the appointment to be observed for potential reactions from the vaccine. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, and to access the consent form, check out the links below:

Did you know we have an online social story to help prepare your child for getting a shot? Take a look, and check out our other stories as well here

Consent form for children ages 5-11 can be found here

Where to find a Covid-19 vaccination site can be found here

More information on Covid-19 vaccine for children: can be found here



# Sensory Friendly Christmas



If the thought of bringing your child to meet Santa feels overly stressful because of long wait times, sensory overload, and noisy crowds, we have got you covered this holiday season. Many places this year are offering "Caring Santa's" or a sensory friendly experiences. Reservations are required at most places, so be sure to plan ahead. Ho ho ho everyone!

## **Sensory Friendly Santa** at Holyoke

Mall at Ingleside December 5th, 2021

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## **Autism Eats Brunch with Santa,**

Maggianos, Boston, MA

December 11, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: 12 and over: \$20.00

Age 6-11: \$15.00

Ages 5 and under: \$5.00 donation

Parking: Parking available in



## **Caring Santa's**, multiple locations:

### December 5th

Braintree, MA, South Shore Plaza

Chestnut Hill, The Shops at Chestnut Hill

Saugus, MA, Square One Mall

Peabody, MA, Northshore Mall

Burlington, MA, Burlington Mall (December 5th – 12th)

Manchester, NH, Mall of New Hampshire

Nashua, NH, Pheasant Lane

Salem, NH, Mall at Rockingham Park

### December 12th

Auburn, MA, Auburn Mall 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Santa Cares, Providence Place Mall, RI

December 5th and 12th 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## Changes to Disney's Disability Accommodations

Disney World is updating their protocols for visitors with disabilities. Families should contact Disney's Disability Access Service (DAS) between 2-30 days before your visit to register for a live video chat with a cast member to discuss accommodations. The DAS program has a list of available shows and rides you will be able to choose from. Visitors registered for the DAS program can download the My Disney Experience app to book return times for rides and other experiences once in the park instead of having to wait in lines. These updated accommodations are only available at Disney World now, but should be available at Disney Land before the end of the year.

## Winter Solstice

Temperatures are starting to drop and days are getting shorter. On December 21st, we will welcome the Winter Solstice, which is known as the shortest and darkest day of the year and celebrated by many cultures. We wanted to share a fun way to celebrate the Winter Solstice with luminaries. You can easily make your own luminary from a mason jar or a paper bag with a tea light or string lights. Take your luminaries for a sunset walk or dress up your outdoor entryway.



Happy Hanukkah (Starts November 28)  
Merry Christmas (December 25)  
Happy Kwanzaa (Starts December 26th)

## Resources



Boston Medical Center is here to support you during this difficult time. Check out our new resource spreadsheet, which has links to online learning, social stories, music/animal/fitness programs, live online classes and more. See the second tab for free meals and financial services throughout Massachusetts. This spreadsheet is available in multiple languages and will be continuously updated as new resources become available. Know of something to add?

Email us at  
[autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:autismprogram@bmc.org)  
 with suggestions.

For past recordings of our webinar series: Caring for Kids with Autism and Developmental Differences, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifYfJKUuSa8XzytUcn-Anw>



## Clinic

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics clinicians are available by phone/Zoom for telehealth visits and consultations. Please call us at 617-414-4841 if you have any questions or are in need of support. To create a free zoom account, visit [zoom.us/signup](https://zoom.us/signup).



## Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD  
 Arathi Reddy, DO  
 Jodi Santosuosso, NP  
 Rachel Amgott, NP  
 Christina Lazdowsky, NP  
 Mei Elansary, MD  
 Alyssa King, PhD  
 Christine McGivney, DO  
 Jocelyn Kuhn PhD  
 Audrey Christiansen, MD  
 Sarah Canale, MD  
 Britany Weissman, MD

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information!



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The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



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