



**MASSACHUSETTS OPIOID
SCREENING AND AWARENESS DAY**

**Massachusetts Opioid
Screening and
Awareness Day**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

**DIRECTORS: DOUGLAS JACOBS, M.D.
& SCOTT WEINER, M.D., M.P.H.**

**A Virtual Event: Town Hall,
Online Screening & Referral**



In Collaboration With:





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MASSACHUSETTS OPIOID SCREENING & AWARENESS DAY

Thank you for your participation in Massachusetts Opioid Screening and Awareness Day, the statewide awareness, education, and screening event. The objectives of this year's event are:

- To offer free, anonymous online screenings for opioid misuse to individuals and/or loved ones.
- To educate community members on the signs, symptoms, facts, and dangers of opioid misuse and disorder so the disorder is better recognized, treatment options become more visible, and stigma is reduced.
- To give participants and their loved ones a clear picture of whether the behaviors and symptoms that they or their loved ones have been exhibiting may be indicative of opioid misuse/disorder. The free, anonymous online screenings provide a quick, simple, and easy way to do this.
- To connect at-risk participants with quality treatment options.

This manual is designed to provide participating facilities with information about Massachusetts Opioid Screening & Awareness Day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 event will now be held online.

WHY SCREEN?

Every day, 5 people in Massachusetts die of opioid overdoses. A staggering 275,000 citizens of the Commonwealth struggle with Opioid Use Disorder at any given time.

Currently, only 10% of individuals with Opioid Use Disorders present for treatment.

Massachusetts Opioid Screening & Awareness Day aims to address this glaringly low treatment rate by increasing awareness of current Massachusetts treatment resources, including those available at your own facility.

SCREENING TOOL

The opioid screening tool that will be used has been adapted from the World Health Organization's Alcohol Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST). The screening tool can be used by both individuals and concerned loved ones. It can be accessed at the *Fighting Opioid Misuse* website: www.opioidscreening.org.

Participants can self-administer the screening tool on a computer, tablet, or mobile device in the privacy of their home. All screenings are free and anonymous.

It is recommended that persons who are identified as at-risk either contact the facility where they are currently receiving their healthcare or contact the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline (1-800-327-5050) for consultation and referral to an appropriate treatment resource. The Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 10 pm and on weekends from 8 am to 6 pm.

Follow-up online screenings will continue to be available.



VIRTUAL SCREENING EVENT COMPONENTS: AN OVERVIEW

WHAT WILL THE SCREENING EVENT OFFER?

- A free town hall with up-to-date information about opioid use disorder, hosted and moderated by experts in the field. A link to the webinar will be provided. The town hall will be recorded and available for future review.
- An anonymous, free, online screening tool for opioid misuse/disorder, which will be available 24/7 after the event.
- Those who score positive or are concerned about their loved ones can contact your facility or the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline (1-800-327-5050) and discuss referrals to local healthcare clinicians and/or facilities.
- A variety of educational resources targeted to both clinicians and the general public, which are available on the *Fighting Opioid Misuse* website: www.opioidscreening.org

WHEN WILL THE EVENT BE CONDUCTED?

Massachusetts Opioid Screening & Awareness Day is a virtual event that will be held on September 22, 2020. All accompanying resources, including the town hall, will remain available on the *Fighting Opioid Misuse* website for public use 24/7 after the day of the event.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO BE A HOST SITE?

If you would like to be a host site, please fill out this [registration form](#). There is no cost to register as a host site, view the town hall, and/or complete the online screening tool. Massachusetts Opioid Screening and Awareness Day is a free event!

WHAT SHOULD I DO PRIOR TO THE SCREENING EVENT?

To familiarize yourself with the purpose of Massachusetts Opioid Screening and Awareness Day, take some time to review the informational materials available on the websites: www.opioidscreening.org or bcore.brighamandwomens.org

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION TIPS

- You will be receiving a press release prior to the event.
- You can extend your reach even further by promoting this event electronically. Send emails, post on Facebook, tweet on Twitter, make announcements at meetings and throughout the community. Word of mouth can go a long way. You can also advertise this event in your facility's e-newsletters or blog.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SCREENINGS ARE EDUCATIONAL: It is important to emphasize that Massachusetts Opioid Screening & Awareness Day is a public education program and that screenings are informational, not diagnostic. A complete substance abuse evaluation will be needed after screening to make an actual diagnosis and develop a treatment plan. Furthermore, even if the score on the online screening tool places a person or their loved one in the low-risk range, persons with concerns about opioid use or health-related problems should contact their health care provider for a complete evaluation.

WHO WE ARE: STEERING COMMITTEE

DOUGLAS JACOBS, M.D.

Dr. Jacobs has been on the Harvard faculty for over 40 years and is a recognized expert in suicide assessment and intervention. In the early 90s, he initiated the concept of large-scale mental health screening for mental disorders. He has combined both of these professional interests to address the current epidemic involving opioid disorders, an at-risk population. He is the founder of *Fighting Opioid Misuse*.

SCOTT WEINER, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Weiner is an associate professor at Harvard Medical School. He is also an emergency physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Director of the Brigham Comprehensive Opioid Response and Education (B-CORE) Program, a health system-wide stewardship program dedicated to reducing opioid-related morbidity and mortality.

MEMBERS

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