



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #38

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [COVID-19 Scan: MMR Vaccine and COVID-19](#) - CIDRAP (Nov 20)
- [Delirium in Older Patients With COVID-19 Presenting to the Emergency Department](#) - JAMA Network (November 19)
- [FDA: SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests can produce false positives](#) - AAP News (November 4)

INTERESTING READS

- [Pfizer, BioNTech seek emergency use of COVID-19 shots in US](#) - AP (November 20)
Pfizer formally asked U.S. regulators Friday to allow emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine, starting the clock on a process that could bring limited first shots as early as next month and eventually an end to the pandemic - but not until after a long, hard winter.
- [AstraZeneca says COVID-19 'vaccine for the world' can be 90% effective](#) - Reuters (November 23)
AstraZeneca said on Monday its COVID-19 vaccine could be as much as 90% effective, giving the world's fight against the global pandemic a new weapon, cheaper to make, easier to distribute and faster to scale-up than rivals.
- [Role of air temperature and humidity in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States](#) - medRxiv (November 16)
Improved understanding of the effects of meteorological conditions on the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19 disease, is urgently needed to inform mitigation efforts.
- [Covid-19 Data in Motion](#) - Johns Hopkins (updates daily)
A 60-second, daily summary of the most important data on COVID-19 in the U.S., updated every morning.
- [FDA allows 1st rapid virus test that gives results at home](#) - AP (November 18)
U.S. regulators on Tuesday allowed emergency use of the first rapid coronavirus test that can be performed entirely at home and delivers results in 30 minutes.
- [Reports of two promising covid-19 vaccines don't mean we 'magically,' quickly return to normal](#) - The Washington Post (November 21)
For many Americans chafing to return to normalcy, recent reports that at least two experimental covid-19 vaccines are highly effective come as welcome news in the midst of a frightening surge of infections and deaths.
- [FDA grants emergency use of Covid treatment given to Trump](#) - Politico (November 21)
The FDA on Saturday authorized the emergency use of an experimental antibody treatment from Regeneron for mild and moderate cases of the coronavirus that was given to President Donald Trump in October.

AMA WEBINAR SERIES - COVID-19: What Physicians Need to Know

Episode 4: Vaccine update

December 3 | 2:00 PM ET | [Information and Registration](#)



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POLICY UPDATE

[Trump makes late-term bid to lower prescription drug costs](#) - AP (November 20)

Trying to close out major unfinished business, the Trump administration issued regulations Friday that could lower the prices Americans pay for many prescription drugs. But in a time of political uncertainty, it's hard to say whether the rules will withstand expected legal challenges from the pharmaceutical industry or whether President-elect Joe Biden's administration will accept, amend or try to roll them back entirely.

[US Economy Hurtles Toward 'COVID Cliff' With Programs Set To Expire](#) - The Hill (November 22)

A slew of expiring emergency programs are setting up an economic "COVID cliff" come 2021, which could see millions of people lose unemployment insurance and get evictions, while a growing wave of small businesses close shop. March's CARES Act set up myriad programs to give people economic relief in the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which are set to expire on Dec. 31.

[McConnell proposes shifting funds to COVID aid](#) - AP (November 20)

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is proposing that Congress funnel \$455 billion of unspent small business lending funds toward a new COVID-19 aid package. The Republican leader's offer Friday comes after a morning meeting with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. They are trying to kick start stalled negotiations with Democrats on a year-end virus aid package in the lame-duck Congress.

[Biden builds out White House legislative affairs team](#) - CNN Politics (November 23)

President-elect Joe Biden is building out his legislative affairs team in the White House, announcing two more key roles in the office that will guide his agenda through what could be a divided Congress.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

- [New AMA policy recognizes racism as a public health threat](#) - AMA (November 16)

New policy adopted by physicians at the American Medical Association's (AMA) Special Meeting of its House of Delegates (HOD) recognizes racism as a public health threat and commits to actively work on dismantling racist policies and practices across all of health care.

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the [Racial Justice/Health Disparities Resources](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).

WORKFORCE UPDATE

Readiness to Train Assessment Tool (RTAT): As a part of HRSA's Health Professions and Education & Training (HP-ET) initiative, a link to the [RTAT](#) survey has been distributed to FQHC/look-alikes across the nation as a step toward improving health centers' capacity, resources, and organizational abilities needed to launch or expand health professions training programs. This survey is important as it not only determines readiness or status of engagement in HP-ET programs at health center, state, and regional levels but also helps to identify barriers in implementing these programs. The survey results will direct future HRSA workforce investments.



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UDS UPDATE

The following is an update provided by Ellen Radis, MPCA's 2020 UDS trainer:

COVID-related:

- For those asking where COVID tests are captured, health centers are reporting that information to HRSA weekly [here](#). It looks like 70% of health centers are responding, so for those who want to be sure that HRSA knows all the testing they are doing, they should be sure they are completing that [survey](#). As mentioned, testing alone is not reported on the UDS.
- The BPHC [Coronavirus FAQ](#) page has lots of specific answers to questions about [Coronavirus and UDS](#), as well as [Temporary Sites during COVID-19](#) and more.
- HRSA has also created this [UDS Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Reporting](#) page, which reiterates some of what we have discussed about when testing does and does not rise to the level of a countable visit.

Clinical Measure related:

- We made a [quick little video](#) showing how to access code sets for the clinical quality measures.

For additional information, check out the [2020 UDS Training Toolkit](#) on our website.

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

HITEQ Learning Collaborative - Hybrid Health Center: Building Systems that Sustainably Support both Telehealth and In-Person Care

This HITEQ Learning Collaborative will bring together health centers across the nation in a series of four structured virtual learning sessions in which participants engage with subject matter experts in didactic learning and discussion. Discussion topics will include a framework for telehealth services, application of the telehealth framework to hybrid care and defining a multi-stage approach to offering in-person care, barriers to accessing telehealth or in-person care and strategies to overcome barriers, and determining next steps to enhance hybrid care.

The last session is:

- **December 2** - Session 4: Creating a Patient-Centric Approach for Telephonic and In-Person Hybrid Care

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

For updates from insurers and other relevant information concerning Telehealth, please visit the [Telehealth Resources](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).



Is Your Health Center Hiring?

Click on the Job Board icon to utilize the new MPCA Job Board and list your openings on our website!



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #38

CHCNET UPDATE

Visit Volume Impact Dashboard Project: MPCA is continuing the *Visit Volume Impact Dashboard* project to understand how COVID-19 has impacted health centers and how health centers have responded. Please continue to report your monthly data via [this spreadsheet](#) and email it, or any questions, to gparent@mepca.org.

For the latest information concerning the MPCA's HCCN, **Community Health Center Network of Maine (CHCNet)**, or for support with health information technology needs, please visit the [CHCNet Member Portal](#) or contact Greg Parent: gparent@mepca.org.

RESOURCES ADDENDUM

For the **Stay Informed, Sign Up, Maine Helps, and Coping and Stress Resources** information, please visit the [Weekly Compendium Resources Addendum](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).



Please click on the calendar for a full listing of upcoming MPCA trainings and events. These events can be viewed by the day, month or as a list.

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**** Join MPCA on SLACK!** We are building our communication outreach capacity between meetings using the Slack communication platform. Many of you are already connected with us in several peer groups including our **Clinical Channel** and our **Billing and Coding Channel**. Please feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for help with joining. ******