



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #41

### CLINICAL UPDATES

- [New National and State Estimates for Recommended COVID-19 Vaccination Priority Population](#) - KFF Newsroom (December 10)
- [Testing's Role in Combating COVID-19: No Guarantee for Safe Holiday Gatherings](#) - ECRI (November 12)
- [Make Informed Decisions Related to COVID-19 and Mental Health](#) - SMI Adviser (An APA and SAMHSA Initiative)
- [National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders: For Individuals with Lived Experience](#) - NCEED.org  
Guidance on how to support yourself, your loved ones and your patients.
- [AAP interim guidance addresses healthy lifestyles, obesity management during pandemic](#) - AAP News (December 9)

#### Weitzman ECHO Series on COVID-19: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy During COVID-19 Wednesday, December 16 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Join us for a discussion about why populations have historically been reluctant towards vaccines, what common misconceptions exist regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, and how to address the vaccine with your patients. Speakers include:

- **Stephen Scholand, MD**, Infectious Disease Physician, Midstate Medical Center
- **Marwan Haddad, MD, MPH, AAHIVS**, Medical Director, Center for Key Populations, Community Health Center, Inc.
- **Kasey Harding, MPH**, Director, Center for Key Populations, Community Health Center, Inc.

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Education & Training

As part of the State's response to COVID-19, Maine DHHS is offering a series of short (30min) "COVID-19 Vaccine Info Sessions" that will be hosted **twice a week starting Tuesday, Dec 15, 2020**. The sessions will occur twice a week for the next several months at the following times:

- Tuesdays at 7:30AM – 8:00AM
- Fridays at 12:00PM – 12:30PM

The sessions will offer brief didactic overviews on the vaccine development and approval process, followed by time for questions & discussions.

For more information and Zoom login, [click here](#).

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution & Administration— Is Your Health System Prepared?

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 | 12:00 PM  
[Registration](#)

This live stream will focus on:

1. What are the key steps facilities must follow to safely handle and administer the vaccine?
2. What are the best practices for storing and handling dry ice?
3. Which supplies are critical and which ones can you go without?
4. How are the doses prepared and what are some helpful strategies to avoid cross-contamination?



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Maine Immunization Program's (MIP) Weekly Planning Group Meeting  
Thursday's | 1:00 PM (ongoing)

[View the slides](#) that were presented at the 12/10 meeting. It is strongly recommended that a representative from each health center, preferably the person in charge of coordinating your vaccination handling and administration, participate in these weekly meetings - if you would like to join the group, please [email the MIP](#).

### INTERESTING READS

- [Death of Brunswick teen who took his life a sign of pandemic's toll on young people](#) - *The Portland Press Herald (December 8)*  
The midcoast community is mourning the loss of a Brunswick teen who took his own life last week in a tragic reminder of the toll the coronavirus pandemic is taking on the mental health of young people in Maine and elsewhere.
- [Here's Why Vaccinated People Still Need to Wear a Mask](#) - *The Portland Press Herald (December 9)*  
The new vaccines will probably prevent you from getting sick with Covid. No one knows yet whether they will keep you from spreading the virus to others — but that information is coming.

### DENTAL UPDATES

- [Saliva in the Diagnosis of COVID-19: A Review and New Research Directions](#) - *Sage Journal of Dental Research (September 16, 2020)*
- [Delta Dental's COVID-19 relief funding expected to reach \\$1.1B](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (December 11)*
- [Maine dental assisting program expands to fill needs](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (December 8)*

### POLICY UPDATES

**Letter Sent to Congress with Updated COVID-19 Requests from Health Centers:** NACHC leadership recently approved [this letter](#) which was sent to Members of Congress last week, outlining the updated requests for funding and support for the health center response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the letter are an increase in the official coronavirus emergency funding ask from \$7.6B to \$10.77B, and a 5-year re-authorization of the Community Health Center Fund. MPCA reached out directly to Maine's congressional delegation early last week has received commitments to contact leadership on our behalf.

**Trump signs short-term spending bill, preventing shutdown:** President Trump signed a spending bill into law late Friday that authorizes government programs for another week. The Senate had passed the measure earlier in the day. The new stopgap law gives lawmakers an extra week to negotiate an omnibus spending package for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Current funding had been set to expire at midnight Friday. Lawmakers also want to attach to any omnibus whatever coronavirus relief can be negotiated in time.



Please click on the calendar for a full listing of upcoming  
MPCA trainings and events.



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### RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

- [Social Inequities Explain Racial Gaps in Pandemic, Studies Find](#) - *The New York Times* (December 9)

Higher rates of infection and mortality among Black and Hispanic Americans are explained by exposure on the job and at home, experts said.

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

### WORKFORCE UPDATES

#### Staff Wellness and Satisfaction Learning Collaborative

This 6-month learning collaborative will bring together 20 health center teams to learn and discuss the drivers of burnout and how these affect staff well-being and quality of care. This Learning Collaborative is part of a national effort supported by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and in partnership with John Snow, Inc. (JSI), to increase workforce retention at health centers by assessing and improving staff wellness and satisfaction. Each health center participating in the Learning Collaborative will receive a one-time payment of \$2500. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

[Apply Here](#)

#### RTAT Update

To date, about 21% of Maine's health centers have participated in the **Readiness to Train Assessment Tool (RTAT)**. We need 50% health center participation by the end of January. Results will shape HRSA's next workforce initiatives. We want our health center voices represented, so future HRSA workforce investments will be most useful to Maine.

The RTAT was created to support **HRSA's Health Professions Education and Training initiative (HP-ET)**, meant to address recruitment and retention needs across the nation. RTAT assesses health center readiness related to engaging in health professions training programs. Please complete the survey to be sure your Health Center's needs and opportunities are known. We are hoping to have participation from every Health Center; multiple employees within your organization, including clinical and administrative staff, are encouraged to -

[Take the Survey](#)



#### 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!



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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:gparent@mepca.org).

### TELEHEALTH UPDATE

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

### 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](#).

## MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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](mailto:it@mepca.org) for help with joining.