



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #43

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Persons with Underlying Medical Conditions](#) - USCDC (Dec 26)
- [Adverse Event Related to Vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) - MeCDC Advisory (Dec 24)

POLICY UPDATES

In Reversal, Trump Signs Coronavirus Relief and Spending Bills: President Trump ended a weekend of worry by [signing the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill](#) and pandemic relief legislation into law on Sunday night. The outgoing president's decision to sign the mega spending bill removes the threat of a partial government shutdown that would have started early Tuesday after a temporary spending law expired. As we reported last week, the bill includes the following funding provisions for Community Health Centers:

- Mandatory funding for the Community Health Centers program – FY21-23 @ \$4 billion/year
- Mandatory funding for the National Health Service Corps program – FY21-23 @ \$310 million/year
- Mandatory funding for the Teaching Health Centers program – FY21-23 @ \$126.5 million/year
- Discretionary Funding for Health Centers: \$1,682,772,000 for FY 2021 (**+\$57 million over FY 2020**)
- Additional flexibility in calculating revenue losses under the Provider Relief Fund

Final Rule in Response to Executive Order 13937: Last week, [HHS released a final rule](#) to increase access to affordable insulin and injectable epinephrine for low-income Americans served by health centers. In response to [Executive Order 13937](#), this final rule ensures future health center grants available under section 330(e) of the Public Health Service Act are conditioned upon health centers having established practices to make insulin and/or injectable epinephrine available at or below the discounted price under the 340B Drug Pricing Program. [See the related fact sheet.](#)

INTERESTING READS

- [Health care providers outside hospitals feel 'neglected' in vaccine rollout](#) - *Lewiston Sun Journal* (Dec 29)
Some who aren't part of Maine's large hospital systems say thousands of independent health care providers have been left out of the state's initial vaccine rollout, even if they work in high-risk settings.
- [New Year's Eve/Holiday Travel](#) - USCDC (Dec 28)
The safest way to celebrate the new year is to celebrate at home with the people who live with you or virtually with friends and family.

DENTAL UPDATES

- [Is dentistry's recovery from COVID-19 in reverse?](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (Dec 3)
- [Maine dentists seek timeline to receive vaccinations, offer to help vaccinate Mainers](#) - *wmtw.com* (Dec 28)



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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RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

- [Feds approve Maine DHHS plan to expand substance use disorder treatment - PenBay Pilot \(Dec 23\)](#)

The Maine DHHS announced Tuesday the federal government has approved the State's request to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment options for MaineCare members.

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

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

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

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.

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