



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #46

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [Project Firstline Resources](#) - *USCDC*
- [CDC warns highly transmissible coronavirus variant to become dominant in U.S.](#) - *The Washington Post* (1/15)

DENTAL UPDATE

- [CDA provides COVID-19 vaccine information](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (1/11)
- [Is a helmet key to protecting dentists, team members from SARS-CoV-2?](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (1/12)
- [ADA offers guidance on reusable dental instruments](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (1/7)
- [Tooth or consequences: Even during a pandemic avoiding the dentist can be bad for your oral health](#) - *The Conversation* (1/19)

INTERESTING READS

- [More than 4,000 vaccine doses sent to Maine potentially spoiled because of temperature issues](#) - *Portland Press Herald* (1/19)
More than 4,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine delivered to Maine clinics this week were set aside and not given to patients because the boxes became too warm during shipping, officials said Tuesday.
- [U.S. Has No Covid-19 Vaccine Reserve Despite Trump Administration's Claims, Report Says](#) - *Forbes* (1/15)
Despite promising this week to free up scores of extra Covid-19 vaccine doses, the federal government doesn't actually have a reserve of extra shots, the Washington Post reported Friday, leading public health officials to worry vaccines are in shorter supply than expected and dashing their hopes to ramp up the pace of immunizations.
- [Pfizer says it has second doses of COVID-19 shot on hand, expects no U.S. supply problems](#) - *Reuters* (1/15)
Pfizer Inc. has been holding on to second doses for each of its COVID-19 vaccinations at the request of the federal government and anticipates no problems supplying them to Americans, a spokeswoman said in a statement on Friday.
- [How to \(Literally\) Drive the Coronavirus Away](#) - *The New York Times* (1/17)
What's the transmission risk inside a car? An airflow study offers some insight for passengers and drivers alike.

NACHC Sponsored Webinars:

FTCA Office Hours for Health Center Clinical Leaders

Hosted by *Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell, LLC*

January 21, March 4, April 22 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM

[Information and Registration](#)

Ask Me Anything Sessions: Stay Sharp | Microplanning for Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines

Hosted by *the Association of Immunization Managers*

January 22 & January 29 | 12:00 PM

[Information and Registration](#)



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POLICY UPDATES

President-Elect Biden's COVID "Rescue Plan" proposes expanding CHCs

The "[American Rescue Plan](#)" announced last Thursday evening by President-Elect Biden included support for expanding CHCs, as follows (pg. 4, emphasis added):

*"Address health disparities and COVID-19. While COVID-19 has devastated the entire country, it has hit some groups and communities of color much harder than others. President-elect Biden is committed to addressing the disparities evident in the pandemic at every step, from ensuring equitable distribution of vaccines and supplies to expanding health care services for underserved communities. His proposal includes funding to provide health services for underserved populations, including **expanding Community Health Centers** and investing in health services on tribal lands. These funds will support the expansion of COVID treatment and care, as well as our ability to provide vaccination to underserved populations."*

The plan does not provide any details on dollar amounts or how the expansion would be implemented. Other proposals in the rescue plan of interest to health centers include:

- Mount a \$20 billion national vaccination program in partnership with states, localities, and Tribes. This will include launching community vaccination centers nationwide and deploying mobile vaccination units to hard-to-reach areas. Also, ensure that everyone receives the vaccine for free, regardless of their immigration status.
- Invest \$50 billion in a massive expansion of testing, including purchasing rapid tests, expanding lab capacity, and helping schools and local governments implement regular testing protocols.
- Fund 150,000 public health workers to perform vaccine outreach and contact tracing in the short term, and eventually to transition into community health roles.
- Address shortages of critical supplies, including PPE, by investing \$30 billion to provide 100% federal reimbursement for critical emergency response resources to states, local governments, and Tribes, including deployment of the National Guard. Also invest \$10 billion to expand domestic manufacturing for pandemic supplies.
- Extend and expand emergency paid leave measures until September 30, 2021.
- Reduce the number of uninsured persons by having Congress subsidize (COBRA) through the end of September and expand and increase Premium Tax Credits for Marketplace plans.
- Expand access to behavioral health services by asking Congress to appropriate \$4 billion to HRSA and SAMHSA. (Presumably some of this would go to CHCs.)
- Invest \$20 billion in Indian Country for COVID response.

New Appropriations/Stimulus Law Includes Provisions that Might Financially Benefit Some Health Centers

Health centers are encouraged to review the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA) to determine possible benefits from the recent changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Employee Retention Tax Credit, or FFCRA paid sick and family leave programs. A summary of the CAA can be found [here](#).



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POLICY UPDATES (CONT'D)

Maine Delegation Announces Nearly \$90M for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution, Expanded Testing

Maine Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins and Reps. Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden on Thursday [announced nearly \\$90 million in federal funding to support COVID-19 vaccine distribution and expanded testing throughout Maine](#). The funding, awarded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, was allocated as follows:

- \$12,146,102 will support a range of COVID-19 vaccination activities. This funding was awarded through the existing CDC Immunization and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement.
- \$77,370,669 will support testing, contract tracing, surveillance, containment, and mitigation to monitor and suppress the spread of COVID-19. This funding was awarded through the existing CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) cooperative agreement.

OMB Publishes Audit Guidance for Federal COVID Relief Funds; Provides 3 Month Extension to Submit Single Audit Reporting Package

In late December the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a “Compliance Supplement Addendum” outlining [audit standards for Federal COVID funds](#) including the Uninsured Claims Program (p. 82) and the Provider Relief Fund (p. 86). OMB also states that organizations that “received COVID-19 funding with original due dates from October 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, an extension for up to three (3) months beyond the normal due date in the completion and submission of the Single Audit reporting package.”

Divided Senate Looks to Bush Era Power-Sharing Plan as Model

Discussions are swirling about Senate leadership's possibility of adopting power-sharing rules similar to a power-sharing agreement forged two decades ago during the Bush Administration. It outlines the chamber's daily operations and its committees. With Democrats winning both Georgia Senate seats, the Senate will be split 50-50, with Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris casting any tie-breaking vote. For more information, click [here](#).

340B NACHC Litigation Updates

On January 13, 2021, NACHC opened a 340B program drug overcharge claim with HRSA by filing a petition in the newly created Administrative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process. The petition asks the HRSA ADR Panel for equitable relief and alleges that Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, and Sanofi, three of the largest drug manufacturers, are violating the 340B program statute by refusing to offer outpatient drugs at 340B program discounted prices to CHCs planning to dispense those drugs through contracted pharmacies. The petition was filed through NACHC’s outside counsel - Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell. [This document](#) is designed to answer some FAQs from the field. Also, [here](#) is a copy of the Complaint, and further background and recent developments, can be read [here](#) and [here](#).

JOB BOARD
POST YOUR OPENINGS HERE

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

Understanding Diverse Communities to Support Equitable and Informed COVID-19 Vaccination Decision-Making

Hosted by National Association of County Health Officials

Thursday, January 21 | 3:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

Creating Effective COVID-19 Contact Tracing Initiatives for Agricultural Workers, Their Families, and Other Vulnerable Populations

Hosted by Migrant Clinicians Network, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Thursday, January 28 | 1:00-2:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

Addressing the Behavioral Health Needs of Unsheltered and Vulnerable Populations during the Pandemic

Hosted by HRSA's Office of Regional Operations and including speakers from Duffy Health Center (Hyannis, MA)

Thursday, January 28 | 1:00-2:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

- [Using Lorenz Curves to Measure Racial Inequities in COVID-19 Testing - JAMA Network \(1/8\)](#)
- [Black Americans Are Getting Vaccinated at Lower Rates Than White Americans - Kaiser Health News \(1/17\)](#)
- **New Resource:** [Translated Materials Library](#) - *National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM)*
The Translated Materials Library offers fact sheets, posters, videos, audio recordings and other resources in English and more than 100 languages free of charge. These materials come from organizations across the country working to communicate effectively with RIM communities. [NRC-RIM](#) has worked hard to compile and organize these materials, though we cannot guarantee their quality.

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

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

HRSA Telehealth Series: Workforce Recruitment

Telehealth Models for Workforce Recruitment, Retention, and Development.

Wednesday, January 27 | 12:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

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

SAMHSA Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) created this list of resources, tools, and trainings for behavioral health and recovery providers.



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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 HCs 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 [Compendium Resources Addendum](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).



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

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 for help with joining.