



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #47

### CLINICAL UPDATES

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States - USCDC \(1/21\)](#)

### DENTAL UPDATE

**Maine AAP and the Partnership for Children's Oral Health Webinar:  
Managing and Preventing Oral Health Emergencies during the Pandemic**  
Thursday, January 28 | 7:00 - 8:15 PM | [Registration](#) and [Information](#)

- [Can PDT treat oral lesions in COVID-19 patients? - Dr. Bicuspid \(1/20\)](#)
- [Did a dentist diagnose SARS-CoV-2 from a dental exam? - Dr. Bicuspid \(1/19\)](#)
- [Are you performing aerosol-generating procedures safely? - Dr. Bicuspid \(1/18\)](#)
- [Do's and don'ts for working through recovery - Dr. Bicuspid \(1/18\)](#)

### INTERESTING READS

- [Beyond Politics - Promoting Covid-19 Vaccination in the United States - New England Journal of Medicine \(1/6\)](#)  
The United States has invested more than \$10 billion in Operation Warp Speed to fast-track SARS-CoV-2 vaccines from conception to market in 1 year. The result is 11 candidates reaching the final stage of Food and Drug Administration testing.
- [COVID Spread More Indoors by Talking Than Coughing, Study Suggests - Newsweek \(1/20\)](#)  
Talking may spread COVID more than coughing, according to scientists who have created an app to help calculate the risk of passing on the virus in different settings.
- [State steers more vaccine to outpatient practices, independent pharmacies - Portland Press Herald \(1/22\)](#)  
Maine public health officials will distribute an increased amount of COVID-19 vaccine doses to outpatient health groups and independent pharmacies next week as the state moves forward with targeting older residents.

### RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

**COVID-19 and the Legacy of Racism: Vaccine Hesitancy and Treatment Bias**  
Part of the Series: "Stopping the Other Pandemic: Systemic Racism and Health"  
Wednesday, February 3 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

- [Dr. Eugenia South: I'm a Black doctor who didn't trust the Covid vaccine. Here's what changed my mind - NBC News \(1/22\)](#)

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



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### POLICY UPDATES

#### **Biden Signs Flurry of Executive Orders (EOs), Including 10 on COVID-19 and Vaccination Rollout**

On his second day in office, President Biden signed 10 EOs to ramp up COVID-19 vaccinations, expand testing and reopen schools as he outlines a detailed plan to tackle the pandemic. The President issued [more than a dozen EOs](#) and memorandums in his first hours in office, undoing many of the hallmarks of President Trump's tenure and beginning to make his own mark on how the U.S. will respond to its multiple crises. Aides have said more Executive actions are expected in the coming days and weeks.

#### **Administration Issues Regulatory Freeze Pending Review**

Ron Klain, President Biden's Chief of Staff, sent a memo to the heads of Executive branch Departments and Agencies on January 20, 2021, outlining a process for the new Administration to review new and pending rules put into place by former President Trump before leaving office. The plan for specific rules can be found in the [memo here](#). ***This delay includes HRSA's new 340B Insulin and EpiPens Rule.*** The effective date has been delayed 60 days, the maximum time allowed under the White House order. In addition to this, President Biden has signed several Executive Orders to address the COVID-19 pandemic, rolling back initiatives by former President Trump's Administration, and setting the agenda for his first 100 days in office. Signed EOs can be found [here](#). President Biden also plans to sign several more EOs this week, with more information on those available [here](#).

#### **Outlook for COVID-19 Stimulus Proposals and Budget Reconciliation Process**

Republicans in Washington have indicated that they are going to look more carefully at Federal spending. Although the Democrats have assumed control of Congress and the White House, there is still some disagreement as to how fast another COVID-19 stimulus relief bill will be enacted. President Biden faces an unclear path to passing additional coronavirus relief this year without bipartisan support. Some say it might not happen until March or later. The President released his own \$1.9 trillion proposal with the support of the House Appropriations Committee leadership, but there also remains much speculation about what Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer will put forward.

### **WORKFORCE UPDATE**

Please fill out the Readiness to Train Assessment Tool (RTAT), a major initiative of the Bureau of Primary Care and Bureau of Health Workforce. RTAT assesses health center readiness related to engaging in health professions training programs. We are appreciative of those who've participated and encourage participation through the end of February. The results will help guide planning and investments in workforce training in health centers. We want our health center voices represented, so future HRSA workforce investments will be most useful to Maine.

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

#### ImmPact COVID-19 Reporting

For CHCs interested in improving their connection to ImmPact, Maine's Immunization Information System (IIS), please follow these steps:

1. Complete the [Onboarding Readiness Checklist and submit the Data Exchange Onboard Application](#).
  - a. Be sure to specify whether you're seeking flat-file upload capability or full HL7 integration (for real-time EHR-to-ImmPact reporting) and reiterate whether or not you'd prefer to involve HealthInfoNet in the process and leverage your HIE connection.
  - b. Once you email the form, ImmPact will begin processing the application and eventually follow up to coordinate the connection(s) necessary between the IIS and CHC (including EHR vendor and HIE, if applicable).
2. While ImmPact is processing your application:
  - a. Review the [Flat File Transfer Specification Document](#),
  - b. Build a report/reporting template according to the specifications and requirements therein, and
  - c. Contact your EHR vendor to notify and prepare of them of upcoming connections to the IIS. Your vendor may have specific steps to follow that will facilitate the connection.

#### For more information, email ImmPact directly:

General information/requests: [Immimpact.Support@maine.gov](mailto:Immimpact.Support@maine.gov)

Deepa Chaudhary, Interface Specialist (HL7 support): [Deepa.Chaudhary@maine.gov](mailto:Deepa.Chaudhary@maine.gov)

Danielle Sherwood, ImmPact Program Manager: [Danielle.Sherwood@maine.gov](mailto:Danielle.Sherwood@maine.gov)

**Please cc: Greg Parent, HCCN Program Manager ([gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org)) for support throughout the process.**

**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](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, please visit the [Telehealth Resources](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).



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



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### UDS UPDATE

#### COVID-related:

- For those asking where COVID-19 tests are captured, health centers are reporting that information to HRSA weekly [here](#). 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:

- Click for a [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.

### 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](#).

### 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.