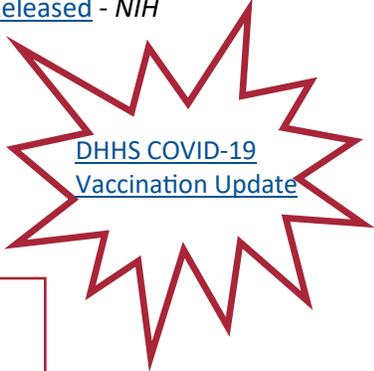




## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #48

### CLINICAL UPDATES

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations: Getting Started](#) - *USCDC (1/29)*
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) - *USCDC (1/21)*
- [New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19](#) - *USCDC (1/28)*
- [Janssen Investigational COVID-19 Vaccine: Interim Analysis of Phase 3 Clinical Data Released](#) - *NIH (1/29)*
- Maine Health Alert Network:
  - [Influenza Arrives in Maine](#) - *MECDC (2/1)*
  - [COVID-19 Updates: Quarantine and Testing](#) - *MECDC (1/29)*



[DHHS COVID-19  
Vaccination Update](#)

### DENTAL UPDATES

**The Center for Primary Care at Harvard University presents:  
Oral Health During COVID-19 Webinar**

Wednesday, February 3 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | [Information & Registration](#)  
This series will cover relevant topics in today's primary care landscape.

- [Canadian dental students, faculty to give saliva for COVID-19 study](#) - *Dr. Bicuspid (1/29)*
- [ADA urges FCC to include dental practices in telehealth program](#) - *ADA News (1/21)*
- [What COVID-19 therapy may be linked to higher risk of MRONJ?](#) - *Dr. Bicuspid (1/29)*
- [CDA: Dentists should stay vigilant after getting vaccine](#) - *Dr. Bicuspid (1/27)*

### POLICY UPDATES

#### **Congressional Democrats Ready to Move on Next Stimulus Package**

Late last week, Congressional Democrats vowed to move quickly on another COVID-19 relief stimulus package with or without Republican support. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have spoken about their desire for bipartisan negotiations. They have not yet officially said they would pursue the more partisan budget reconciliation process. Many Democrats, however, predict reconciliation will be the most likely method going forward, and Schumer did say he hopes to bring a budget resolution to the floor as soon as this week.

#### **CHCs Must “Recertify” for 340B During February – or be Removed From the Program.**

Every year, all CHCs must complete the annual 340B recertification process. This entails attesting to their compliance with all 340B program requirements and ensuring that their data on all clinical and contract pharmacy sites is up-to-date on the HRSA 340B database. This year the window for recertification opens on Monday, February 1, and closes on Monday, March 1. Health centers who fail to recertify by midnight on March 1, will lose eligibility to participate in 340B for a minimum of 4 months. For more information, see the [340B recertification webpage](#) or contact the call center at [apexusanswers@340bpvp.com](mailto:apexusanswers@340bpvp.com) or 1-888-340-2787 (Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 6 PM EST.)



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### Healthcare Coalition of Maine Infectious Disease Surge Tabletop Exercise

Wednesday, March 17th | 12:00 - 3:00 PM | [Registration](#) and [Information](#)

Quarterly Statewide meeting of the Healthcare Coalition of Maine. This meeting will include the Infectious Disease Surge Plan Tabletop Exercise.

### INTERESTING READS

- [Safer Ways to Enjoy the Super Bowl](#) - *USCDC (1/28)*  
Gathering virtually or with the people you live with is the safest way to celebrate the Super Bowl this year.
- [CDC Officials Say Evidence Indicates Schools Can Reopen If Precautions Are Taken](#) - *The New York Times (1/26)*  
When to keep schools open, and how to do so, has been an issue plaguing the response by the United States to the pandemic since its beginning. President Biden vowed to “teach our children in safe schools” in his inaugural address.
- [Moderna’s vaccine is less potent against one COVID variant but still protective, company says](#) - *STAT (1/25)*  
Moderna is studying adding booster doses to its vaccine regimen after finding its Covid-19 vaccine was less potent against a coronavirus variant that was first identified in South Africa, the company said Monday.
- [Fauci sees vaccination for kids by late spring or the summer](#) - *AP News (1/29)*  
The government’s top infectious disease expert said Friday he hopes to see some kids starting to get vaccinated for COVID-19 in the next few months. It’s a needed step to securing widespread immunity to the virus.
- [Evidence Builds That Pregnant Women Pass Covid Antibodies to Newborns](#) - *The New York Times (1/29)*  
A new study suggests that protective antibodies can be transferred through the placenta, and the baby may receive more of them if a mother is infected with Covid earlier in her pregnancy.
- [New Toolkit for Pregnant People and New Parents](#) - *USCDC (1/28)*  
Resources and tools to help pregnant people, breastfeeding people and new parents caring for infants to protect their health and help people who serve these communities communicate with them.
- [Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation](#) - *USCDC (1/29)*  
Traveling on public transportation increases a person’s risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 by bringing people in [close contact](#) with others, often for prolonged periods, and exposing them to frequently touched surfaces.



### 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.

ImmPact is also offering multiple trainings each week to ensure users are have the necessary knowledge and skills to meet reporting expectations. These meetings should be shared widely with all applicable staff.

#### **Reach out to Greg Parent ([gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org)) if you do not have either of these on your calendar.**

- Every Tuesday at 12pm: ImmPact for new users ordering **any/all vaccines**.
  - Agenda items include: Vaccine Order/transfer notification; Patient search; Cold chain; Inventory; Administrative Maintenance.
- Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12pm: ImmPact for new users ordering **COVID Vaccine only**.
  - Agenda items include: New user log-in; Ordering COVID vaccine; Accepting orders on arrival; Patient search; Reconciling inventory

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

- General information/requests: [ImmPact.Support@maine.gov](mailto:ImmPact.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, CHCNet 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)



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### TELEHEALTH UPDATE

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

### 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](#)

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the [Racial Justice/Health Disparities 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 [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](mailto:it@mepca.org) for help with joining.