



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #51

CLINICAL UPDATES

- Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory (*Feb 17*)
 - [Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Rule Update, Re-Instatement of Requirement to Submit SARS-CoV-2 Samples](#)
- [Study Identifies Risk Factors for Elevated Anxiety in Young Adults During COVID-19 Pandemic](#) - NIH (2/12)
- [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines](#) - USCDC (2/9)
- [About Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19](#) - USCDC (2/19)

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

- Everything You Need to Know About Masks - USCDC (*updated 2/10*)
 - [Improve how your mask protects you](#)
 - [Types of Masks](#)
 - [Your Guide to Masks](#)
- [Could a Single Vaccine Work Against All Coronaviruses?](#) - *The New York Times* (2/9)

Scientists are working on a shot that could protect against Covid-19, its variants, certain seasonal colds — and the next coronavirus pandemic.
- [People Who Have Had Covid Should Get Single Vaccine Dose, Studies Suggest](#) - *The New York Times* (2/19)

New studies show that one shot of a vaccine can greatly amplify antibody levels in those who have recovered from the coronavirus.
- [Pfizer says vaccine can be stored in normal freezers](#) - *The Hill* (2/19)

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine does not need to be stored in expensive deep freezers that have posed challenges to the vaccination campaign, the company announced Friday.
- [Updated: I've been vaccinated against COVID-19. Now what?](#) - *Portland Press Herald* (2/18)

Masking, physical distancing and frequent hand washing are still recommended, at least until experts learn more about the performance of vaccines in real-life situations.
- [How to Buy a Real N95 Mask Online](#) - *The New York Times* (2/17)

Fakes and little-known brands still abound, even as health officials have advised us to up our mask game. Here's what to do.



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #51

POLICY UPDATES

Democrats will use process of Budget Reconciliation to move the Biden COVID bill without bipartisan support.

The Biden \$1.9T COVID relief package is expected to be voted on in the House by the end of the week. It is expected to pass but with [few if any Republican votes](#) in either body. The \$15 minimum wage is facing opposition from some moderate Democrats while the Republicans oppose aid to state and local governments. [What is Budget Reconciliation?](#)

Update: Energy and Commerce Committee Completed Markup Includes Funding for CHCs, Moves to House for a Vote

Last week the [House Energy and Commerce Committee virtual markup](#) was completed. The committee approved the panel's portion of the upcoming coronavirus relief package to be considered under budget reconciliation procedures. The approved measures to be advanced include: \$7.6 billion in flexible emergency COVID-19 funding for CHCs and health center program look-alikes (LALs); \$800 million for the National Health Service Corps, \$200 million for the Nurse Corps, and \$330 million for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education programs; Investments in Medicaid to support vaccination efforts and other critical services; \$7.5 billion in CDC funding for vaccine administration and distribution; \$46 billion to HHS to implement a national testing strategy and contact tracing surveillance; and \$7.6 billion to HHS to expand the public health workforce. The plan also includes expansion of children's health programs, ACA exchange upgrades, mental/behavioral health care, and substance abuse treatment. Leader Pelosi expects to send the completed House budget reconciliation package to the Senate at the beginning of March and wants it to be signed into law by March 14, 2021. Meeting this deadline would save an estimated 11 million people from losing unemployment benefits that expire on March 14, 2021.

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure Picked to Lead CMS

[President Biden selected Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to lead CMS.](#) Brooks-LaSure served in the Obama administration as a senior CMS official who helped implement elements of the Affordable Care Act. She also previously worked on Capitol Hill for the House Ways and Means Committee. If confirmed, Brooks would run the \$1 trillion agency that oversees Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA. The job is viewed as the second most powerful after the role of HHS secretary.



**NACHC Webinar: America's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan:
A Discussion with Dr. Bechara Choucair, White House Vaccinations Coordinator**
Tuesday, February 23 | 2:00 PM | [Registration](#)

DENTAL UPDATES

- [Are dental teams at greater risk of getting COVID-19? It depends](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (2/18)
- [Are you talking to your patients about 'COVID tongue'?](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (2/18)
- [Yankee Dental 2021: Pediatric Dentist Provides Tips on Caries Prevention During the Pandemic](#) - *practiceupdate.com* (2/16)
- [Dental care is kids' No. 1 unmet health need during pandemic](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (2/9)
- [14% of parents don't think it's safe to go to the dentist](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (2/16)
- [Families USA asks Congress to add oral health to Medicare](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (2/16)



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #51

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) if you would like more information on these trainings.

For more information, email ImmPact directly:

- General information/requests: ImmPact.Support@maine.gov
- Deepa Chaudhary, Interface Specialist (HL7 support): Deepa.Chaudhary@maine.gov
- Danielle Sherwood, ImmPact Program Manager: Danielle.Sherwood@maine.gov

Please cc: Greg Parent, CHCNet Program Manager (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.

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



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!



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #51

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

- [Race Versus Time: Targeting Vaccine To The Most Vulnerable Is No Speedy Task](#) - *npr.org* (2/23)

The Biden team wants to swiftly vaccinate people of color and others most vulnerable to COVID-19. But health centers are learning that speed and achieving racial equity don't always go hand in hand.

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](#).

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:

Christopher Pezzullo, DO	Clinical Director	cpezzullo@mepca.org
Susan Whittaker, CPC, CPMA	Quality Improvement Program Manager	swhittaker@mepca.org
Bryan Wyatt, MA	Director of Policy & Communications	bw Wyatt@mepca.org
Greg Parent	CHCNet Program Manager	gparent@mepca.org
Sharon Stanley, MBA, CPC	Finance Program Manager	sstanley@mepca.org
Marge Kilkelly, MS, CED	Policy Program Manager	mkilkelly@mepca.org
Hillary Colcord, MHRT/C	BPHC Program Manager	hcolcord@mepca.org
Beth Pearce	Oral Health Coordinator	bpearce@mepca.org
Emily Ferry, MSW	Workforce Program Manager	eferry@mepca.org
Sarah Morrill, RN, BSN	Program Manager	smorrill@mepca.org

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.