

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

March 16, 2021 | Year 2, Volume 2

CLINICAL UPDATES

[Body Mass Index and Risk for COVID-19–Related Hospitalization...](#) - *USCDC MMWR (3/12)*

[COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity](#) - *AAP.com (3/10)*

Webinar: Tackling America’s Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Through Primary Care Integration

March 31 | 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM | [Registration](#)

Join us for the release of a new report by the Bipartisan Policy Center's Behavioral Health Integration Task Force that offers a roadmap to advance the integration of behavioral health and primary care.

USCDC UPDATES

[COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Childcare Programs](#)

[Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19](#)

[How To Talk To Your Close Contacts: What To Do If You Have COVID-19](#)

CMS UPDATES

[Biden-Harris Administration Increases Medicare Payment for Life-Saving COVID-19 Vaccine](#) - *CMS.gov (3/15)*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is increasing the Medicare payment amount for administering the COVID-19 vaccine. This new and higher payment rate will support important actions taken by providers that are designed to increase the number of vaccines they can furnish each day.

[Medicare Payments for Covid Shots Raised to \\$40 From \\$23](#) - *Bloomberg (3/15)*

The Biden administration will almost double the amount the U.S. Medicare program pays health care providers to administer Covid-19 shots to \$40 per shot as part of its effort to ramp up immunizations.

DENTAL UPDATES

[Oral damage common in COVID-19 survivors](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (3/11)*

[Clinical trial to study mouthwash for fighting COVID spread](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (3/11)*

INTERESTING READS

[Guiding Maine through the pandemic](#) - *The Hill (3/9)*

Nirav Shah, the director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, knows he is lucky. Shah is the public face of the state's coronavirus response and has observed the vitriol directed at many of his public health colleagues across the country, including armed protesters and threats to their families.

[B117 deadlier than other COVID-19 strains, more data affirm](#) - *CIDRAP (3/15)*

The B117 COVID-19 variant, which was first identified in the United Kingdom in October 2020, may pose a 61% higher risk of 28-day mortality, according to a study published today in Nature.

[A new study suggests 3 feet, not 6 feet, is sufficient distance for school students, with mask-wearing and other safety measures kept in place.](#) - *The New York Times* (3/14)

School shutdowns have been a divisive topic since the pandemic erupted, and a new study has ignited debate over the six-foot rule of social distancing and whether it can be relaxed in classroom settings, which would ease the way for children to return to schools.

POLICY UPDATES

Biden Signs American Rescue Plan

The House passed the Senate version of the American Rescue Plan on March 10, 2021, by a vote of 220-211 with no Republican support. President Biden signed the legislation on Thursday, March 11, 2021. To view a summary of the items of interest to health centers included in the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, [click here](#).

Senate Confirms Xavier Becerra as HHS Secretary

On Thursday, the Senate confirmed Xavier Becerra to be Secretary of Health and Human Services by a vote of 51-48. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) finally expressed his support for the nominee which enabled the vote to move forward. Senator Collins was the only Republican to support the nomination. Both Manchin and Collins said they were impressed by Becerra's commitment to work on rural health issues.

The Trump-era Public Charge Regulation is Officially Rescinded

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [formally rescinded](#) the Trump-era Public Charge regulation. Normally, rescinding a final rule that has gone into effect requires an agency to go through the full notice-and-comment process. However, last Tuesday the Biden Administration told an appeals court that it would not defend the Trump-era regulation. This led the court to dismiss the case, allowing a judge's nation-wide injunction of the rule to go into effect. Because of the court's action, DHS can simply rescind the regulation, rather than going through notice-and-comment.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

Webinar: Special Populations Roundtable - Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program

March 26; April 9; April 23; or May 7 | 1:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Join several National Training and Technical Assistance Partner organizations for bi-weekly roundtable discussion around the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for special populations.

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



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!

CHCNET UPDATE

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

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.

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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.