

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

MARCH 23, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 3

## CLINICAL UPDATES

[COVID-19 State of Vaccine Confidence Insights Report](#) - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) (3/15)

[Trending Clinical Topic: PASC \(long COVID\)](#) - Medscape (3/12)

## VACCINE UPDATES

[AZD1222 US Phase III trial met primary efficacy endpoint in preventing COVID-19 at interim analysis - AstraZeneca](#) (3/22)

[European Scientists Zero In On AstraZeneca Blood Clot Link](#) - NPR (3/21)

[Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#) - USCDC (3/16)

[How to talk about COVID-19 vaccines with friends and family](#) - USCDC (3/18)

## DENTAL UPDATE

[Is wearing a mask affecting your dental health?](#) - DrBicuspid.com (3/18)

## INTERESTING READS

[Governor Mills Announces Acceleration of Maine's COVID-19 Vaccination Timeline](#) - maine.gov (3/19)

Governor Janet Mills announced earlier this week that Maine is accelerating the timeline of its vaccination plan to make more people eligible for COVID-19 vaccines earlier.

[Moderna has begun testing its COVID-19 vaccine on young children](#) - cbs.com (3/21)

The study, called KidCOVE, is testing Moderna's vaccine candidate in children ages 6 months to less than 12 years old.

[Some long-haul covid-19 patients say their symptoms are subsiding after getting vaccines](#) - The Washington Post (3/16)

Some people who have spent months suffering from long-haul covid-19 are taking to social media to report their delight at seeing their symptoms disappear after their vaccinations.

[Late-Stage Pandemic Is Messing With Your Brain](#) - The Atlantic (3/8)

The share of Americans reporting symptoms of anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, or both roughly quadrupled from June 2019 to December 2020, according to a Census Bureau study released late last year.

### **Webinar #2: "Propelling Our Mission Forward in NACHC's 50th Year" COVID and the Impact of Community Health Centers on Rural America**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 2:00 PM | [Register](#)

The webinar will provide health centers, health center-controlled networks, and primary care associations the opportunity to hear directly from decision-makers about pressing COVID and other health care issues facing rural areas, future implications, and the role of health centers to address these issues.

## POLICY UPDATES

### **Senate Confirms Xavier Becerra as HHS Secretary.**

After weeks of consideration, the Senate finally confirmed Xavier Becerra to be Health and Human Services secretary on a 50-49 vote on Thursday. A staunch health center advocate, Becerra becomes the first Latino to hold the Cabinet office and will be expected to play a critical role in the Biden Administration's COVID-19 response. Sen. Collins was the only Republican to vote for Becerra.

### **340B/Insulin/EpiPens Regulation Delayed**

Last week, BPHC [announced](#) in the Federal Register that the effective date of the 340B/insulin/EpiPens regulation will be delayed by another 120 days, until July 20, 2021. BPHC received 198 comments on the proposed delay, of which 187 were supportive, including one from MPCA. Their two main justifications for the extension was that a further delay is consistent with the Biden Administration's regulatory freeze, and appropriate given the critical role that CHCs have been assigned since January regarding vaccinating hard-to-reach populations. While we would have preferred for BPHC to rescind the regulation entirely, **rescinding the regulation was not an option for BPHC at this time**. However, BPHC did note that 175 of the comments requested that the regulation be rescinded, and that they will consider all issues related to the regulation during the next 120 days.

### **CHCs to Start Receiving Free Masks from the Federal Government in April**

Last week, Jim Macrae announced that the timeline for CHCs to receive free masks from the Federal government has been pushed from March to April. As announced last month, CHCs will receive "no-cost, high-quality, washable masks in child and adult sizes, packaged in pairs of two." CHCs will be encouraged to distribute masks, as well as a flyer with CDC guidance on how and why to wear masks, to patients, staff, and community members for each person in their household. As delivery dates near, HRSA will inform send CHCs an EHB message about the specific number to expect. For more information, see BPHC's [COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#).

## RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

### **National Health Care for the Homeless Council**

#### **Invitation to Partner with SSA to Reach Vulnerable Populations during COVID-19**

Thursday, March 25, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM | [Register](#)

Please join us for a national conference call to learn how your organization can help us deliver critical financial assistance to vulnerable populations during COVID-19.

### **National Center for Equitable Care for Elders**

#### **Webinar: Promoting Vaccine Confidence in Older Adults**

Thursday, April 8, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM | [Register](#)

Community-dwelling older adults are a high priority group for COVID-19 vaccination, but their concerns regarding vaccine safety or availability may continue to leave them vulnerable to serious illness. This webinar will review approaches to build trust through tailored interventions that incorporate community norms and address barriers to vaccine uptake in this patient population.

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](mailto: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.

## **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.