

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

APRIL 6, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 5

CLINICAL UPDATES

[Interim Estimates of Vaccine Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection among Health Care Personnel, First Responders, and Other Essential and Frontline Workers - USCDC \(4/2\)](#)

[Maternal COVID-19 Vaccination Protects Fetus, Infants, Study Shows - Medscape \(3/25\)](#)

INTERESTING READS

[CDC Director Warns of 'Impending Doom' as Cases Rise - WebMD \(3/29\)](#)

The United States faces “impending doom” as COVID-19 numbers continue to rise and more states loosen restrictions, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, MD, said during a news briefing Monday.

[Policy Review: Evidence and Guidance for In-person Schooling during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab \(3/24\)](#)

Schools across the U.S. are bringing more students back to the classroom while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic—but questions remain about how best to resume safe, successful school operations. In updated guidance, our experts break down what you need to know.

[Biden Hails Vaccine Progress While Warning of New Virus Wave - Bloomberg \(3/29\)](#)

President Joe Biden, speaking at the White House, unveiled his new “90-90” plan, saying that 90% of U.S. adults will be eligible to get a Covid-19 shot by April 19, and 90% of the nation will live within five miles of a vaccination site as his administration more than doubles the number of participating pharmacies.

[It's official: Vaccinated people don't transmit COVID-19 - Fortune \(4/1\)](#)

Since CDC Director Rochelle Walensky made the comments discussed below, scientists have pushed back against the idea that vaccinated people “don't carry the virus.” We've published [a deeper analysis of the debate here](#).

[Mysterious Ailment, Mysterious Relief: Vaccines Help Some COVID Long-Haulers - npr.org \(3/31\)](#)

As the U.S. pushes to get people vaccinated, a curious benefit is emerging for those with this post-illness syndrome: Their symptoms are easing and, in some cases, fully resolving after they get vaccinated.

[Johnson & Johnson Statement on U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturing - jnj.com \(3/31\)](#)

Since January of 2020, Johnson & Johnson has been working directly with governments, health authorities and other companies to help end the global pandemic. We continue to expect to deliver our COVID-19 vaccine at a rate of more than one billion doses by the end of 2021.

[COVID-19 pushed total US deaths beyond 3.3 million last year - AP \(3/31\)](#)

The coronavirus caused approximately 375,000 deaths, and was the third leading cause of death in 2020, after heart disease and cancer. COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. now top 550,000 since the start of the pandemic.

[Coronavirus Tracker by County/State - The New York Times \(real-time\)](#)

This search tool will give you up-to-date information on the exposure risk level in your county.



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!

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS

CMS Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine Payments

On April 1, CMS [announced](#) that CHCs may request lump sum payments for administering COVID-19 vaccines in advance of cost report settlement. CMS, through Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), will pay CHCs up front for COVID-19 vaccines and administration at 100% reasonable costs like influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. NACHC advises CHCs to work with their MACs for more details on what data to submit for a lump sum adjustment. CHCs will have the option to receive a lump sum adjustment based on the flu and pneumococcal vaccine costs from the most recent cost report or provide 60-90 days of actual COVID-19 vaccine and administration cost data. NACHC will continue to work with Medicare ensuring the cost report and lump sum payments are accurate.

Senators Rosen and Collins Introduce MOBILE for Health Care Act

Last week, Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Susan Collins introduced the [Maximizing Outcomes through Better Investments in Lifesaving Equipment \(MOBILE\) for Health Care Act](#). This bipartisan bill would provide greater flexibility for grants to CHCs by expanding the allowable use criteria in the New Access Points Grant program. The criteria will include part-time mobile clinics and renovation, acquisition, and new construction of CHCs to increase access to affordable, accessible, quality health care services in rural and underserved communities. NACHC supports the legislation and is encouraging PCAs across the country to ask their Senators to sign on as co-sponsors.

Proposals on Health Care and Drug Pricing in the Works

President Biden is expected to issue a proposal on health care and drug pricing in a few weeks. This proposal will be separate from, and in addition to, the infrastructure proposal released on March 31. This is consistent with the statement from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she wants to invest in “human infrastructure”, and to pay for the spending using elements of the drug pricing bill approved by the House passed last year. At this time, it is not clear when Hill Democrats will seek to combine infrastructure and health care into one bill, and congressional Democrats were awaiting more input from the White House.

Biden Administration Announces Community Corps to Boost Vaccine Confidence

The Biden Administration recently introduced the [We Can Do This Campaign](#) to encourage vaccine confidence. The campaign includes the COVID-19 Community Corps HHS initiative, of which NACHC is a founding member that brings multiple community, religious, and celebrity stakeholders together in support of the We Can Do This Campaign. Visit the [Community Corps Website](#) to learn more and join the fight in protecting America’s health.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

[After a Year of Pandemic and Crisis, How Have Americans’ Values Changed?](#) - *The Commonwealth Fund* (3/31)

The year 2020 was marked by several related crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, deepening economic inequality, and increasingly visible racism and violence against people of color.

Community Health Workers & Pharmacists: Their Frontline Role in the Response to COVID-19

Thursday, April 8, 2021 | 3:00 PM | [Information/Register](#)

Special Populations Roundtable - Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program

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](#).

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

USDA Seeks Applications for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it is accepting applications for [Distance Learning and Telemedicine](#) (DLT) program grants to help provide educational and medical services in rural areas. Read the full stakeholder announcement [here](#).

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

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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