

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

MAY 18, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 11

## VACCINE UPDATE

[COVID-19 Vaccinations in Maine by Zip Code](#) - *maine.gov*

[Coronavirus FAQ: Should I Get My Antibodies Checked After I Get Vaccinated?](#) - *npr (5/16)*

## CDC UPDATE

[When You've Been Fully Vaccinated: How to Protect Yourself and Others](#) - (5/16)

[Guidance for Un-vaccinated People: How to Protect Yourself & Others](#) - (3/8)

[Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) - (5/15)

## DENTAL UPDATE

[Protecting your practice when employees say no to the shot](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (5/11)*

[1 in 16 dental hygienists still not working due to COVID](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (5/11)*

[Maintaining the patient relationship via teledentistry](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (5/12)*

## INTERESTING READS

[Internet Subsidy Gives \\$50 a Month Discounts for Low-Income Americans](#) - *npr (5/12)*

The [Emergency Broadband Benefit program](#) from the Federal Communications Commission provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households.

[US is getting better and better news on the coronavirus](#) - *CNN (5/16)*

A new Axios/Ipsos poll finds that 67% of American adults have either gotten a Covid-19 vaccine or will get it as soon as possible. The same poll shows on a separate question that 75% of respondents said they either had gotten the vaccine or were likely to get it.

### **Serving Military Veterans in Health Centers: Exploring Unexpected Partners and Resources**

June 17 | 12:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

This webinar will provide an update on the current landscape of Veterans being served in health centers, and offer ideas for creating unique partnerships to advance Veterans services in your community health center setting. Cohosted by NACHC and the Community Health are Association of New York State (CHCANYS).

## RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

[AMA releases plan dedicated to embedding racial justice and advancing health equity](#) - *AMA (5/11)*

### **Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

May 18 | 3:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

This webinar is the first in a two-part series called Advancing Racial Equity, co-produced by County Health Rankings & Roadmaps and Mobilizing Action toward Community Health. The next webinar in this series, Transforming Narratives to Create Racial and Health Equity, will air on June 16th.

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

## POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

### **HRSA orders drug makers to immediately resume providing 340B-priced drugs to contract pharmacies**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which oversees the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program, sent [letters](#) on May 17 to 6 manufacturers—AstraZeneca, Lilly USA, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi and United Therapeutics. HRSA acting Administrator Diana Espinosa, MPP, wrote that each manufacturer “must immediately begin offering its covered outpatient drugs at the 340B ceiling price to covered entities through their contract pharmacy arrangements, regardless of whether they purchase through an in-house pharmacy.”

She also noted that they must comply with 340B statutory obligations and the 340B program’s CMP final rule, and “credit or refund all covered entities for overcharges that have resulted from (the) policy.” If manufacturers continue to refuse to ship 340B-priced drugs to contract pharmacies, this “may” result in HHS imposing Civil Monetary Penalties on them.

While there are still many unanswered questions, this is the first time that HHS has said directly to manufacturers that their actions violate the statute and suggested that monetary penalties could result.

### **NACHC Requesting Data on Benefits of Telemedicine**

NACHC is requesting information on the benefits of telemedicine Utilization/Outcomes/Quality to use as they lobby congress. Please provide information to Sarah Baizer at [SBaizer@nachc.org](mailto:SBaizer@nachc.org).

### **Senate HELP Committee to Hold Hearing on Health Care Workforce Crisis**

The Senate HELP Committee is holding a hearing on health care workforce crisis. President James Herbert of UNE will testify. The testimony will take place Thursday at 10:00 AM. If interested, add it to your calendar by clicking [here](#), or you can watch it live by clicking [here](#).

## WORKFORCE UPDATE

All CHCs are strongly encouraged to [register to be a NHSC site](#) by **Tuesday 5/25** – regardless of how low your HPSA score is. There are two reasons why all CHCs should register:

1. Due to the additional funding provided by ARPA, ***all CHCs stand a good chance of getting a NHSC or Nurse Corps Loan Repayment provider later this year – even if their HPSA score is significantly lower than the typical eligibility cut-off.*** ARPA provided an additional \$800 million for the NHSC, more than doubling the program’s annual budget. As a result, this year the NHSC will be able to support the largest number of practitioners in its history.
2. The likelihood of Congress increasing NHSC funding over the long-term will depend heavily on the response to this short-term funding increase. ***If HRSA doesn’t receive enough applications -- from both facilities (like CHCs) and individual practitioners – to expend the full amount of ARPA funding, Congress will interpret this as meaning that there’s not enough demand to justify increased funding in the long-term.***

## 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)



### **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!

## **BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS**

### **MaineCare - Maine DHHS**

[Billing Guidance](#) for HCPCS Telehealth Code G2025 for Providers of MaineCare Benefits Manual (MBM) Sections 31 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and 103 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), CR102243

### **COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund - HRSA.gov**

HHS recently announced the [COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund \(CAF\)](#): a new program covering costs of administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients enrolled in health plans that either do not cover vaccination fees or cover them with patient cost-sharing. Since providers cannot bill patients for COVID-19 vaccines, the CAF addresses an outstanding compensation need for providers vaccinating underinsured patients. See the [CAF program fact sheet](#) for a quick overview.

[Getting paid for vaccine counseling - AAP](#)

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.