

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JUNE 15, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 15

## VACCINE UPDATE

[Johnson & Johnson Statement on FDA Approval of Shelf Life Extension for Company's COVID-19 Vaccine - jnj.com \(6/10\)](#)

### **CHCs that purchase incentives for COVID vaccination should use NON-grant funds**

In response to a question sent to the BPHC Help Line, BPHC indicated that there are numerous legal restrictions on CHCs' ability to use Federal grant funds (e.g., H8F) to purchase items to incentivize patients to be vaccinated (e.g., gift cards, ticket to a local event). For full story, [click here](#).

## CDC UPDATE

[How to Wear Masks - Guidance for Unvaccinated People](#)

[Types of Post-COVID Conditions](#)

### **Sponsored by Universal Health Services (UHS) - Dual Diagnosis Treatment During COVID: Strategies to Support Patients and Staff During Difficult Times**

Thursday, June 24 | 1:00 PM | [Register](#) - NO FEE

This session will feature Executive Leadership representing 3 treatment centers with a combined 65 years of experience in the field. Each CEO will discuss issues they faced in the prior year and the unique strategies created to overcome the difficulties associated with COVID.

## WORKFORCE UPDATE

[Attend the HRSA Virtual Job Fair!](#) - June 23, 2021 | 6:45 - 10:45 PM

[HRSA Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program \(STAR LRP\) – July 22](#)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will provide up to \$250,000 in loan repayment to [eligible health professionals](#) in exchange for a six-year, full-time service commitment in rural and underserved areas. The program expands access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment by adding several new disciplines such as bachelor's-level SUD counselors, behavioral health paraprofessionals and clinical support staff.

## INTERESTING READS

[COVID-19 Healthcare Resource Roadmap \(Version 2.0\) - fema.gov \(6/1\)](#)

This COVID-19 Healthcare Resource Roadmap (Version 2.0) (Roadmap) was developed to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) leaders and other interested parties with navigating some of the challenges, as well as the resources, associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[The Delta Variant Could Soon Become the Dominant COVID-19 Strain. Here's What You Need to Know - msn.com \(6/15\)](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic is increasingly becoming an arms race among the emerging variants of the virus, and at the moment, there's no question which one is winning: the Delta variant—formally known as B.1.617.2—one of [four strains](#) to have emerged originally in India

### [National Vaccine Month of Action - mobilize.us](#)

Through July 4th, the We Can Do This Campaign is mobilizing national organizations, community-based partners, influencers, celebrities, athletes, and thousands of volunteers across the nation to empower their communities and get more people vaccinated.

## **POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

### **Newly Introduced Federal Bills of Interest:**

#### **Doctors of Community (DOC) Act to Permanently Authorize THCGME Program**

On June 2, 2021, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) announced legislation to permanently authorize the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program and expand the number of Teaching Health Center residency programs. The THCGME program supports the training of primary care medical and dental residents with a focus on helping residents in high-need communities. **The DOC Act will significantly improve healthcare access for millions of Americans, particularly those living in rural and urban medically under-resourced communities.** The DOC Act, [H.R. 3671/S.1958](#), was introduced in the House on June 1, 2021, and in the Senate on June 7, 2021.

#### **Hallways to Health Care Act**

Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced the [Hallways to Health Care Act](#). This Act would **provide comprehensive health care to students by investing in school-based health centers that serve students with limited access outside of school.** The provisions of the bill include:

- \$200 million to help school-based health centers provide comprehensive health care to students nationwide
- \$50 million to expand behavioral health care
- \$100 million for the construction of new clinics and improvements expansions of the existing clinic
- The creation of programs to increase and establish telehealth services
- Assistance for health centers to receive technical assistance

#### **HHS Secretary Becerra Testified In Front of the Senate LHHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee**

[On June 9, 2021](#), HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra testified in front of the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee on the Biden Administration's FY22 Budget Request for HHS. In response to questions from Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), Secretary Becerra reiterated his support for telehealth as well as his belief that pharmaceutical companies should be held accountable for violating 340B program rules.

## **CHCNET UPDATE**

### **CHCNet Health Centers: Provider Satisfaction Survey for Clinical Staff**

MPCA is exploring how clinical teams' experience with health IT can be improved and how workflows can be made more sustainable. We are asking clinical staff to find 15 minutes in their schedule to make their voice heard through participating in a provider satisfaction survey. Responses will be anonymous.

If you have not received an e-mail invitation to the survey, please [Click for Survey](#). Questions about the survey or difficulty accessing it? Contact Michael Pancook, CHCNet Program Manager, [mpancook@mepca.org](mailto:mpancook@mepca.org). Thank you in advance for your participation.

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 Michael Pancook: [mpancook@mepca.org](mailto:mpancook@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!

**RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO**

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

**BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS**

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

**RESOURCES ADDENDUM**

[AFTER HOURS](#) - MPCA OFFICE HOURS RESOURCES

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.