

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JUNE 22, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 16

REMINDER - OFFICE HOURS HAS A NEW LINK/PASSCODE

The Zoom link and passcode to MPCA Office Hours has recently changed. **Zoom link:** <https://mepca.zoom.us/j/91863132173>. **Passcode:** see your **most recent** calendar invite, or contact Megan Cross (mcross@mepca.org).

VACCINE UPDATE

[COVID-19 Vaccines](#) - Medscape (6/16)

Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Strengthening the U.S. Public Health System

Tuesday, June 29 | 11:00 AM | [Information and Registration](#)

Given that it is not a question of if, but when, the next pandemic will occur, the Bipartisan Policy Center's Future of Health Care Initiative will release a new report during a virtual event on June 29 that offers critical steps policymakers can take to strengthen the public health system for inevitable emergencies.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

Achieving Health Equity for People with Disabilities During the Pandemic and Beyond

Monday, June 28 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

This webinar will explore challenges and showcase strategies to address the diverse needs of people living with disabilities and work toward health equity.

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

Join Us for [National Health Center Week](#) - August 8-14, 2021

"Community Health Centers: The Chemistry for Strong Communities"

This year's theme is reflective of the significant impact Communities Health Centers have had during the pandemic and the role they play going forward. Specific focus days:

- Sunday, 8/8: Public Health in Housing Day
- Monday, 8/9: Healthcare for the Homeless Day
- Tuesday, 8/10: Agricultural Worker Health Center Day
- Wednesday, 8/11: Patient Appreciation Day
- Thursday, 8/12: Stakeholder Appreciation Day
- Friday, 8/13: HC Staff Appreciation Day
- Saturday, 8/14: Children's Health Day

As you begin preparing for this weeklong celebration, please contact Andrea Watkins (awatkins@mepca.org) and let us know of your plans



DENTAL UPDATE

[OSHA releases standard to protect health workers from COVID](#) - *DrBicuspid.com (6/16)*

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Supreme Court Upholds the ACA

The Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, upheld the Affordable Care Act and rejected the attempt by Republican attorneys general to overturn the law. The decision safeguards insurance coverage for millions, pre-existing conditions protections and health center funding through the Community Health Center Fund.

Judge Denies HHS Motion to Dismiss in AstraZeneca 340B Suit

On June 16, 2021, a judge declined to dismiss the 340B litigation case filed by AstraZeneca against HHS. In the [ruling](#), the Court concluded that the 340B statute is silent as to the role of contract pharmacies, and Congress has a responsibility to clarify whether contract pharmacies are covered entities. The case has not yet determined whether HHS' December 30 Advisory Opinion is legally enforceable.

Bipartisan Lawmakers Push Infrastructure Deal; Democrats Struggle with Reconciliation

After negotiations between the White House and lead Republican negotiator Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) broke down, [a bipartisan group of 21 lawmakers \(including Sens. Collins and King\) proposed a \\$1.2 trillion package](#), mainly focused on traditional infrastructure. Details and funding sources of the package remain unclear. Congressional Democrats continue to consider reconciliation for a larger funding package with more progressive pay-fors. Some Senate Democrats are pushing for a package as high as [\\$6 trillion](#) if the bipartisan discussions break down, but that level of spending will likely be pared back by other moderates.

CHCNET UPDATE

(LAST WEEK) CHCNet Health Centers: Provider Satisfaction Survey for Clinical Staff

We want to hear from YOUR clinical team about how to make their work more sustainable. CHCNet has invited providers from participating centers to contribute their voice to guide strategies to improve clinicians' satisfaction with health technology, set priorities as we recover from COVID pandemic, and inform workforce retention and recruitment efforts. At the end of last week, **the response rate from providers was below 20%**, which will limit the strength and precision of the findings we will be able to draw.

We will be collecting responses until the end of this week. Please encourage your clinical teams to participate so that we can investigate ways to improve their health IT experiences and enable their work to be more sustainable. MPCA can provide some sample language for center leadership to send to their providers. If you need a link to the survey to include with your message, please copy and paste the following: [Click for Survey](#).

Questions about the survey or difficulty accessing it? Contact Michael Pancook, CHCNet Program Manager, 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.

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

SAMHSA recently released an [Evidence Based Practice Resource Guide](#) for the Telehealth Treatment of Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder.

For updates from insurers and other relevant information, please visit the [Telehealth 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!



2021 Virtual MPCA Annual Conference
Embracing Change: Recovery, Resilience, and Reinvention

Session Dates:

10/7, 10/14, 10/21 - 2:30 - 5:00 PM

10/28 - 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to virtually join us in October!

Registration and agenda coming soon.

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 for help with joining.