

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JUNE 29, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 17

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).

INTERESTING READS

[Nearly All COVID Deaths in US Are Now Among Unvaccinated](#) - *Medscape* (6/24)

An Associated Press analysis of available government data from May shows that "breakthrough" infections in fully vaccinated people accounted for fewer than 1,200 of more than 853,000 COVID-19 hospitalizations.

[How Doctors Communicate About COVID-19: Like a Game of Telephone](#) - *Medscape* (6/22)

According to most polls of those unsure about receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, "having more information" is the single most important concern expressed.

['It's So Frustrating': Foreign-Trained Professionals Face Career Barriers in Maine](#) - *Maine Public* (6/28)

It's a story of countless personal challenges, but has consequences for the whole state — even as Maine struggles to retain skilled workers, many foreign-trained professionals are stuck in entry-level jobs. Now, a new law aims to bridge that gap.

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

President Biden and Bipartisan Lawmakers Announce Infrastructure Deal

President Biden and a bipartisan group of 10 Senators (5 Democrats and 5 Republicans) [announced agreement](#) on a [\\$1.2 trillion package](#) focused on traditional infrastructure. **House and Senate Democrats said they plan to move the bipartisan and reconciliation infrastructure packages in July.** Senate Budget Chairman Bernie Sanders (D-VT) is advocating for a package as high as [\\$6 trillion](#). According to a discussion draft summary that is circulating, that may include a significant infusion to health centers and the National Health Service Corps. However, it is unclear whether Senate moderates would support such a large package. As the details of both the packages are being written, it is more important than ever that we work to have \$10 billion in CHC infrastructure funding included.

HHS Names 340B ADR Board Members

On June 23, 2021, HHS posted a [Notice](#) naming 8 members (6 voting, 2 non-voting) to the 340B ADR Board. These members were selected by HHS Secretary Becerra. Currently, Eli Lilly is the only manufacturer with a preliminary injunction against the ADR process and does not have to comply until litigation is resolved. The ADR Board consists of at least 6 voting members with equal representation from CMS, HRSA, and the HHS Office of General Counsel. ADR Board members will be HHS employees with complex litigation, drug pricing and distribution, and other relevant 340B expertise.

HHS Withdraws Contract Pharmacy Advisory Opinion

[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, Congress has a responsibility to clarify whether contract pharmacies are covered entities, and the Contract Pharmacy advisory opinion provides a different interpretation of the 340B statute than past HHS guidance. In response, on June 18, 2021, HHS withdrew the Contract Pharmacy advisory opinion to end "unnecessary litigation." Currently, HHS is defending the advisory opinion in at least 6 lawsuits and believes withdrawing the advisory opinion renders those cases moot.

DENTAL UPDATE

[Sources of SARS-CoV-2 and Other Microorganisms in Dental Aerosols - PracticeUpdate.com \(6/23\)](#)

WORKFORCE UPDATE

REMINDER - Submit your NHSC New Site Application today!

[NHSC New Site Application deadline is July 1](#)

It's not too late for your site to become NHSC-approved.

Review the program requirements before you submit your application - please refer to the [NHSC Site Reference Guide](#). Need assistance? Reach out to one of your state leads for any questions you have about the application process: [Division of Regional Operations \(DRO\) State Leads](#).

We look forward to receiving your completed application!

Maine AHEC Network Health Professionals Survey

The Maine AHEC Network at the University of New England is conducting a survey of Maine-based health professionals about the necessary knowledge and skills health professionals need in order to collaborate across sectors to address health disparities, advance health equity, and improve health outcomes for their patients, populations and communities and would like your input. The [anonymous survey](#) should take no more than 15 minutes, and is **open now through July 31st, 2021**.

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](#).

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 Michael Pancock: mpancook@mepca.org.

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

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.**

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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.