

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JULY 20, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 20

INTERESTING READS

[New Data Leads To Rethinking \(Once More\) Where The Pandemic Actually Began](#) - *npr.com* (7/19)

Back in May, a group of scientists — many at the top of the virology field — shifted the debate about the origins of COVID-19. They published a letter in the journal *Science* saying the lab-leak theory needs to be taken more seriously by the scientific community.

[The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends universal masking in schools this fall](#) - *New York Times* (7/19)

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued [new Covid-19 guidelines for schools](#) on Monday, recommending that everyone over age 2 wear masks this fall, even if they have been vaccinated. Exceptions may be made for those with medical or developmental conditions that complicate mask wearing, the group said.

CDC UPDATES

[Families with Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Members](#) - (7/16)

[When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)- (7/16)

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

House LHHS-Ed Appropriations Bill Advances

The House Appropriations Committee approved the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill [last week](#). Democrats and Republicans continue to disagree on the maximum amount of the funding package and the lack of inclusion of the Hyde Amendment, banning the use of federal funds to pay for abortions. The legislation includes \$1.8 billion for the health center program, an increase of \$148 million from FY21. Within that increase, \$50 million would go to School-Based Health Centers, \$25 million would establish the Alcee Hastings Cancer Screening Program, and \$50 million would go towards the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative.

Senate Democrats Agree to \$3.5 Trillion Top-Line Number for FY22 Budget Resolution

Top Senate Democrats announced an agreement on a [\\$3.5 trillion](#) FY22 budget resolution. The framework would allow Democrats to pass top health care priorities, such as expanding Medicare benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing and expanding Medicaid coverage to low-income individuals in non-expansion states. Details have not yet been released, and some form of drug pricing reform will likely be included. The top-line number will likely be reduced further as Senate moderates negotiate their priorities. Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) has said Senators are close to turning the [\\$1.2 bipartisan infrastructure framework](#) into legislation, though funding issues persist. Schumer aims to introduce both the bipartisan infrastructure bill and budget resolution before the August recess.

Biden Administration Provides Nearly \$144 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Support COVID-19 Response Efforts in Underserved Communities

As part of the Biden Administration's ongoing efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly [\\$144 million in American Rescue Plan funding](#) to 102 HRSA Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs), including Community Clinical Services in Maine, to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and enhance health care services and infrastructure in communities across the country.

Building Health Center Partnerships with Youth-Based Organizations to Advance Adolescent COVID-19 Vaccination

Wednesday, July 28 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM | [Register here](#)

Learn how health centers are galvanizing on-the-ground partnerships with community-based youth organizations to enhance adolescent COVID-19 vaccination efforts nationwide. Panelists from the Boys & Girls Club of America, the YMCA, and a school-based health center will share steps they have taken to increase adolescent vaccinations in their communities and will explore opportunities to partner with health centers.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

NICHM Presents: Achieving Health Equity for People with Disabilities During the Pandemic and Beyond (Pre-recorded)

In the United States, one in four adults has a disability and the pandemic has disproportionately impacted this community and made it more difficult to access care. This webinar explores challenges and showcase strategies to address the diverse needs of people living with disabilities and work toward health equity. [Click here](#) to access the video

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

COMING SOON

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.



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 Pancook: 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!



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 - 4:30 PM

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

Registration and agenda coming soon.

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 for help with joining.