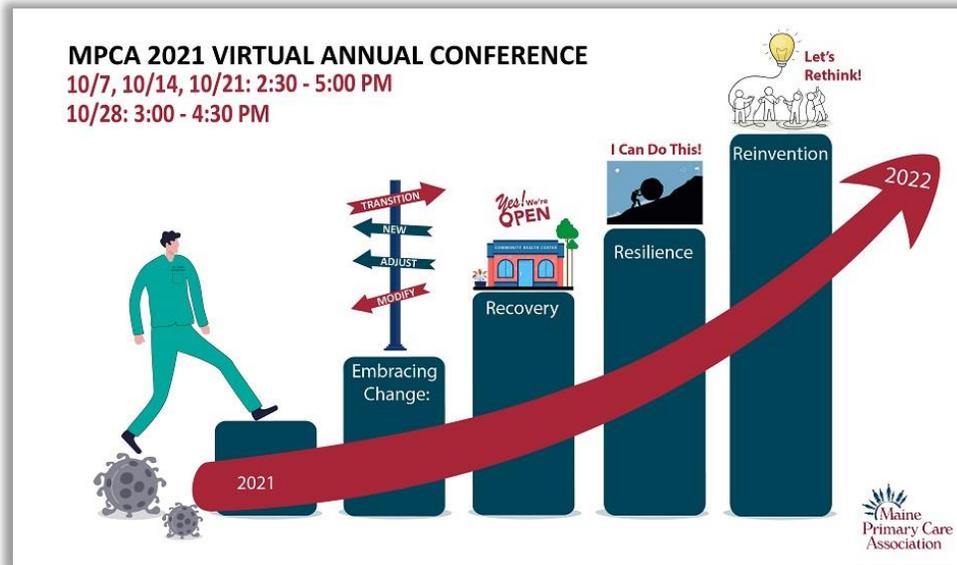


# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

AUGUST 17, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 24

## 2021 Virtual MPCA Annual Conference

*Embracing Change: Recovery, Resilience, and Reinvention*



### MPCA 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

10/7, 10/14, 10/21: 2:30 - 5:00 PM  
10/28: 3:00 - 4:30 PM

### Session Dates:

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

### Annual Board of Directors Orientation:

10/28  
3:00 - 4:30 PM

[Registration](#)  
[Draft Agenda](#)

FMI: Andrea Watkins  
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## CLINICAL UPDATE

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes Additional Vaccine Dose Immunocompromised Individuals - FDA Administration \(8/12\)](#)

## DENTAL UPDATE

[Comparing Saliva and Nasopharyngeal Swab Specimens in the Detection of COVID-19 - PracticeUpdate \(8/15\)](#)

[Dry mouth, altered taste, and lesions point to COVID-19 - DrBicuspid \(8/12\)](#)

[NNOHA - COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) Vaccine Resources - NNOHA.com](#)

[ADA publishes FAQ sheet on vaccines in dental office - DrBicuspid \(8/10\)](#)

## CDC UPDATE

[Increased Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Activity in Maine \(PDF\) - MeCDC \(8/16\)](#)

[Use of an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series for immunocompromised people \(PDF\) - MeCDC \(8/14\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People - USCDC \(8/16\)](#)

[Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science - USCDC \(8/6\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines Work- USCDC \(8/16\)](#)

[Families and COVID-19 - USCDC \(8/11\)](#)

## INTERESTING READS

[HHS will require health care workforce to be vaccinated against Covid-19 - CNN Politics \(8/12\)](#)

Covid-19 vaccinations will be required for the more than 25,000 health care staff and volunteers working at the Department of Health and Human Services, Secretary Xavier Becerra announced Thursday.

[Biden administration expected to advise Covid booster shots for most Americans- CNN Politics \(8/17\)](#)

Top health officials in the Biden administration are coalescing around an agreement that most Americans should get Covid booster shots eight months after becoming fully vaccinated, two sources familiar with the discussions tell CNN.

## **POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

### **Merck Announces Restrictions on Contract Pharmacies – but Exempts CHCs**

On Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, Merck announced that it will stop shipping 340B-priced drugs to contract pharmacies effective Sept. 1, 2021, unless the 340B provider gives them data on all prescriptions filled with 340B drugs. Thankfully, the [Merck letter](#) states that *Merck’s new restrictions on contract pharmacies do not apply to “grantees” (which include both CHC grantees and look-alikes) “at this time.”*

### **Senate to Begin Drafting \$3.5 Trillion “Social Infrastructure” Package, which may Contain New Health Policies**

Early last week, the Senate passed 50-49 a partisan \$3.5 trillion budget resolution, which authorizes the relevant committees to begin drafting legislation meeting specified budget limits. The Senate Finance Committee is in charge with drafting most of the health-related policies – and related offsets – of the package by Sept. 15 (although that deadline is likely to slip.) The budget resolution outlines several health proposals that could – but are not guaranteed – to be included in the final package. The items on this “wish list” include:

- Extending the higher Affordable Care Act tax credits from the American Rescue Plan;
- Adding Medicare dental, vision and hearing benefits;
- Fixing the Medicaid coverage gap;
- Investing in home and community-based care;
- Lowering the Medicare age;
- Advancing health equity;
- Letting Medicare negotiate drug prices; and
- Expanding federal support for CHCs, Graduate Medical Education, Teaching Health Centers, the NHSC, and Nurse Corps

### **NACHC: Back to School, COVID-19, and the Value of School-Based Health Centers**

Tuesday, August 31, 2021 | 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET | [Registration](#)

As we look towards the 2021/2022 school year and the continued impact of the COVID-19 virus, this webinar brings together national leaders in school-based health to discuss plans for a safe return to school, adolescent and COVID-19 vaccination efforts, the value of having a health center available within a school setting, and successful collaborations with government and community-based organizations to improve the wellbeing of the students and families they serve.

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

Effective August 12, 2021, CMS will pay to administer additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines consistent with the FDA EUAs, using [CPT code 0003A](#) for the Pfizer vaccine and [CPT code 0013A](#) for the Moderna vaccine. They will pay the same amount to administer this additional dose as they did for other doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (approximately \$40 each).

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

## 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](mailto:mpancook@mepca.org).

## 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.



### 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!

## 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.