

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

AUGUST 31, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 26

CDC UPDATE

[School Testing for COVID-19 - \(8/26\)](#)

[Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science - \(8/26\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot - \(8/20\)](#)

[Daily Activities - \(8/25\)](#)

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Biden Administration Announces 30% Increase in Per-person SNAP Benefits

The USDA has announced that the average per-person amount of SNAP benefits will rise from \$121 per month to \$157 per month – the largest increase ever. While some Republicans have been critical of the 30% increase, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack maintains that the increase is justified under the language of the Farm Bill passed in December 2018.

INTERESTING READ

[Two Aroostook hospitals no longer issue COVID tests for Canada-bound travelers - Bangor Daily News \(8/24\)](#)

The hospitals in Caribou and Presque Isle have stopped administering COVID-19 tests to people who want to travel because they have an increased demand for testing those who are ill. That means people in central Aroostook County will have to travel an hour north or south to get the test required to enter Canada.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

The State of Maine is offering free stress management and resiliency resources to people in Maine experiencing stress reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic, specifically healthcare workers. StrengthenME, along with Workforce EAP (Employee Assistance Program), will work closely with leadership at various healthcare organizations to customize these services, ensuring they are well suited to the needs of the workforce:

- Master Classes for Leaders
- Workshops for Frontline Healthcare Workers
- Lunch-and-Learn Wellness Breaks
- Wellness and Connection (WAC) Groups
- Individual Work/Life Coaching
- Maine Frontline Warm Line
- Leadership Consultations

For a more detailed description of services offered, and registration information, [click here](#).

DENTAL UPDATE

[Reimbursement comparable for virtual, in-person visits - DrBicuspid \(8/24\)](#)

[Point-of-Care Screening for SARS-CoV-2 Enhances Safety of Oral Healthcare in the Dental Office Setting - practiceupdate \(8/23\)](#)

MPCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

[Registration](#) | [Agenda](#) | FMI: Andrea Watkins (awatkins@mepca.org)

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

UPCOMING WEBINARS OF INTEREST

Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP) presents **COVID-19 Vaccines: Women's health, pregnancy & new families**

Thursday, Sept. 2 | 6:00 PM | [Registration & Information](#)

Join us for a community forum featuring Maine experts on women's health, pregnancy and early childhood education as they discuss the latest COVID-19 vaccination recommendations. Speakers will share their perspectives on the role COVID-19 vaccines play in keeping pregnant women and young children as safe as possible, and answer audience questions.

Maine Council on Aging: Maine Wisdom Summit – Embracing a New Normal *Bouncing Forward to Build an Age-Positive Culture in Maine*

Tuesday, September 21, 2020 | 8AM to 4PM | [Registration & Information](#)

This virtual Summit will explore what it will take to build an age-positive culture in Maine with resilient communities planned to meet the new needs of older residents.

Two pre-summit sessions are also scheduled, one on *Embracing Trends & Advances in Technology & Information Sharing to Support Healthy Aging*, to be held on September 7th, and the other, *Embracing Job Quality for Maine's Essential Support Workforce*, to be held on September 14th. These are intended for more targeted audiences and are focused on issues currently impacting the health and well-being of older people in Maine.



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!

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

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.

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.

