

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 30

In 9 Days!

2021 MPCA Annual Conference - Virtual

Embracing Change: Recovery, Resilience, and Reinvention

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

LAST CHANCE! Reserve your spot to hear our Keynote Speaker on October 7

Arethusa S. Kirk, MD, FAAP, National Senior Medical Director
UHC Community and State, United HealthCare

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

CLINICAL UPDATE

[What the FDA wants doctors to tell patients asking for Ivermectin](#) - AMA (9/20)

[Large-Scale Screening of Asymptomatic Persons for SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern and Gamma Takeover, Brazil](#) - CDC.gov

[Booster Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) - Maine HAN Network (9/24)

Maine Community Action Partnership presents Encouraging Vaccination: How to Talk to Your Family and Neighbors

Sept 30, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Join us for a forum discussion featuring Maine public health and health care professionals as they share information on how to communicate about the COVID-19 vaccines and counter misinformation. Speakers will share advice and answer audience questions about how to effectively communicate accurate information with those unvaccinated against COVID-19.

BPHC: COVID-19 Booster Readiness Webcast Friday, October 1 | 2:00-3:00 PM. | [Join the day of the session](#)

HRSA and CDC will provide guidance for health centers on boosters for older adults and those at high risk of severe COVID-19. HRSA Chief of Staff Jordan Grossman will be introducing CDC speakers who will cover booster guidance, best practices to prepare for flu season, and vaccine co-administration.

DENTAL UPDATE

[Dental surgeons offer imaging tips for patients wearing masks](#) - DrBicuspid (9/22)

[Oral 'black fungus' infection linked to COVID-19 treatment](#)- DrBicuspid (9/22)

INTERESTING READ

[In a matter of days, Pfizer CEO says they'll be ready to ask for approval of a Covid-19 vaccine for kids - CNN \(9/27\)](#)

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

New FQHC Toolkit on the Federal Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Providers

The State and Regional Association of Community Health Centers has prepared a [federal vaccine mandate toolkit for FQHCs](#). The toolkit contains FAQs and links to resources/templates that may be helpful. As there are still many unanswered questions about the mandate, this toolkit will be updated as new information becomes available and when CMS publishes the Interim Final Rule about the mandate next month.

Partisan Infighting Puts Budget Reconciliation Timeline In Jeopardy

[Last week](#), the House Energy & Commerce (E&C) and Ways & Means (W&M) Committees debated their respective provisions of the partisan reconciliation spending plan, the Build Back Better Act. Speaker Pelosi is looking to hold votes on both the \$1.2T bipartisan infrastructure package and the Build Back Better Act next week but significant hurdles remain in that path. Democratic House and Senate moderates have expressed concern about the overall size of the package, as well as specific provisions, including those around drug pricing. The bipartisan infrastructure package [also faces hurdles](#) as Democrat progressives have indicated that they might not support it without progress on the Build Back Better Act. Right now, the House legislation includes \$10B in CHC infrastructure funding, \$6.3B in workforce funding, and other Medicare and Medicaid priorities.

Republicans Continue to Oppose Debt Limit Increase as Part of the Continuing Resolution (CR) to Fund the Government as September 30 Deadline Nears

On September 21, 2021, the House [passed](#) a CR as the September 30, 2021 deadline to prevent a government shutdown nears. The CR would go through December 3, 2021 and includes a suspension of the debt limit through December 16, 2022. The Senate is expected to take up the legislation early next week where 60 votes will be needed to avoid a filibuster. However, Republicans continue to say they will [oppose any effort to raise the debt limit](#). This could force Democrats to pass the CR without the debt limit increase through reconciliation. This process might make it more difficult for Congress to meet the deadline to avoid a government default.

HRSA Refers 6 Manufacturers to HHS OIG for Civil Monetary Penalties

Early last week, HRSA [referred 6 manufacturers](#) to the HHS Office of Inspector General for Civil Monetary Penalties after the manufacturers failed to comply with the violation letters sent in May 2021. HRSA sent letters to the 6 manufacturers outlining each manufacturer's violation of statutory 340B Program requirements by refusing to sell, without restriction, covered outpatient drugs at 340B prices to covered entities that dispense medications through contract pharmacy arrangements. The letters directed each manufacturer to submit a plan to come into compliance with the law and continued failure to provide 340B price drugs could result in civil monetary penalties.

Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates

Tuesday, November 9 | 3:00-4:00 PM | [Join the day of the session](#)

The webcast will include a segment with Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., the director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, who will provide the latest guidance for health centers on COVID-19 vaccines and other updates on vaccine safety and efficacy.

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

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

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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.