

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

OCTOBER 19, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 33

Last Session

2021 MPCA Annual Conference - Virtual

Embracing Change: Recovery, Resilience, and Reinvention

10/21 - Clinical Overview of Colorectal Cancer, Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD), and Dental Grants

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

Session Date: 10/21 | 2:30 - 5:00 PM

Annual Board of Directors Orientation: 10/28 | 3:00 - 4:30 PM

CLINICAL UPDATE

[Young men and boosters: more harm than good? - Inside Medicine \(10/14\)](#)

[Pediatricians, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and Children's Hospitals Declare National Emergency in Children's Mental Health - AAP News \(10/19\)](#)

INTERESTING READS

[Distrust for authority driving low vaccination rates in rural Maine - Bangor Daily News \(10/6\)](#)

As the state reaches a milestone with 1 million Mainers having received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, significant divisions remain between the state's southern coast and its rural interior.

[Bangor homeless shelter plans to expand beds as hotel housing prepares to close - Bangor Daily News \(10/13\)](#)

A Bangor homeless shelter plans to grow its number of beds to compensate for the loss of beds when a local hotel stops serving as a homeless shelter at the end of the year.

[Real-world data show that filters clean COVID-causing virus from air - Nature \(10/6\)](#)

Research at a hospital swamped by people with COVID-19 has confirmed that portable air filters effectively remove SARS-CoV-2 particles from the air — the first such evidence in a real-world setting.

[CDC issues new COVID-19 guidance for the holiday season - CBS News \(10/18\)](#)

New holiday COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges eligible people to get vaccinated against the virus and wear masks - in some cases - when gathering.

[Pfizer vaccine's protection wanes over time, study says - Bangor Daily News \(10/5\)](#)

Research conducted in Southern California has confirmed the dramatic erosion of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine's protection against "breakthrough" coronavirus infections.

[FDA panel endorses lower-dose Moderna COVID shot for booster - AP News \(10/14\)](#)

U.S. health advisers said Thursday that some Americans who received Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago should get a half-dose booster to rev up protection against the coronavirus.

[FDA panel endorses booster shot for J&J COVID-19 vaccine - AP News \(10/15\)](#)

U.S. health advisers endorsed a booster of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine Friday, citing concern that Americans who got the single-dose shot aren't as protected as those given two-dose brands.

DENTAL UPDATES

[Evaluation of the Virucidal Efficacy of Chlorhexidine and Povidone–Iodine Mouthwashes Against Salivary SARS-CoV-2 - PracticeUpdate \(10/2\)](#)

[Utilizing a Telephone Triage System to Run an Urgent Dental Care Hub - PracticeUpdate \(10/5\)](#)

[COVID-19–Associated Mucormycosis \(CAM\) in India - PracticeUpdate \(10/5\)](#)

[Evaluation of the Virucidal Efficacy of Chlorhexidine and Povidone–Iodine Mouthwashes Against Salivary SARS-CoV-2 - PracticeUpdate \(10/2\)](#)

[RI dentist can't work until vaccinated for COVID-19 - DrBicuspid \(10/5\)](#)

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

CMS Vaccine Mandate and OSHA Vaccination and Testing ETS Regulations Pending Release

On October 8, 2021, CMS submitted the “Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination” regulation for review to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Additionally, OSHA submitted the “COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard Rulemaking” regulation for review October 12, 2021. NACHC is planning to host a webinar reviewing each regulation and compliance requirements for CHCs and share our operational resource guide upon release. Stay tuned. We will share that webinar information as soon it is made available to us.

Congress Passes Short-Term Debt Limit Fix

On [October 12, 2021](#), the House passed a bill to raise the debt limit by \$480B ahead of the October 18, 2021 deadline sending the bill to the President’s desk. This legislation pushes the deadline for a longer-term debt limit solution to around December 3, 2021, the deadline for Congress to prevent a shutdown.

NACHC's ADR Petition against Sanofi Moves Forward

Earlier this month, HRSA notified NACHC's legal counsel that a 340B Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) panel has been assigned to NACHC's petition representing over 225 CHCs against Sanofi and AstraZeneca. In response, Sanofi requested an administrative stay, asking the ADR panel to delay the process until their lawsuit against HHS determines the legality of the ADR Rule. Without a response from the ADR Board, on October 8, 2021, Sanofi filed a motion for emergency relief to temporarily suspend its obligation to respond to NACHC’s ADR petition. On October 14, 2021, the Court denied Sanofi’s motion stating, “the Court will render it’s decision on the pending summary judgement motions in this matter on or before November 5, 2021.”

VBP Priorities Interviews

MPCA has opened additional slots to interview with [Craig Hostetler](#), Principal at the Hostetler Group, the week of November 8. We would like to hear from you about the needs of your health center in preparing for value-based care. If you have not already scheduled an interview and would like to, please contact Sharon Stanley at sstanley@mepca.org

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

[Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Becomes First Health Plan in Market to Incorporate Equity Measures Into Its Payment Models](#) - BCBS Newsroom (9/23)

Company identifies racial inequities in members' health care.

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

WEBINARS OF INTEREST

Building Back Better: Utilizing Lessons Learned during COVID-19 for Inclusivity and Retention

Thursday, October 21 | 2:00 PM | [Information and Registration](#)

Join the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) STAR² Center and experts from Ainey Volion Consulting for a webinar on inclusivity in the workplace for people with physical disabilities, people that are d/Deaf, blind, and visually impaired, and neurodiverse people.

MMA-CQI: SUPPORT For ME Training and Technical Assistance to Increase Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the Primary Care Setting project.

- **Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12-1pm** - Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder and Alcohol Use Disorder with Opioid Use Disorder – Complexities and Opportunities

This webinar will provide information on treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder as well as prescribing tips for Alcohol Use Disorder with Opioid Use Disorder and discussing the co-morbid use and or/treatment with patients.

- **Wednesday, December 1, 2021 12-1pm** - Substance Use Disorder Related Drug Screens and Lab Results – The Differences in Tests, Costs and Discussing Results

This webinar will provide information on the product options around testing as well how to talk about unexpected lab results with your patient while still promoting their successes on their recovery journey.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Weitzman ECHO Series on COVID-19 Back for a Limited Series!

Second Session: November 3 | 12:00 PM | [Registration & Information](#)

Join us as we discuss updates to the pandemic, how organizations have shifted their workforce, vaccine boosters, and promising practices moving forward. We will be joined again by Dr. Stephen Scholand to give us COVID-19 (and variant) updates at the beginning of each session.



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](#).

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.