

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

OCTOBER 26, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 34

2021 Annual Board of Directors Orientation

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

Thursday, 10/28 | 3:00 - 4:30 PM

CLINICAL UPDATE

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Takes Additional Actions on the Use of a Booster Dose for COVID-19 Vaccines - USFDA \(10/20\)](#)

CDC UPDATES

[Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? - \(10/22\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens - \(10/21\)](#)

[Holiday Celebrations - \(10/15\)](#)

DENTAL UPDATE

[Poor Oral Health Tied to Greater Severity of COVID-19 - Practice Update \(10/15\)](#)

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Senate Appropriations Committee Includes \$1.8 Billion (\$110 Million Increase from FY21) for CHCs in FY22 LHHs-Ed Appropriations Bill

On October 18, 2021, the Senate Appropriations Committee [released](#) its remaining FY22 appropriations bills, including the [Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education Bill](#), ahead of the December 3, 2021 deadline to fund the government. The Labor-HHS spending bill includes \$1.8 billion for health centers (an increase of \$110 million from FY21). Within that funding is a \$50 million increase for the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative and a total of \$60 million for School-Based Health Centers. The school-based health center funding is further broken down with \$30 million for 330 grantees and \$30 million for non-330 grantees. The [bill report](#) has language reaffirming the importance of 340B and praising HRSA's efforts to hold pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers accountable for their actions to undermine the 340B program.

Democrats Look to Compromise Around \$2 Trillion Reconciliation Bill as Oct. 31 Deadline Looms

Democrats are approaching a compromise of slightly less than \$2T for the partisan reconciliation Build Back Better (BBB) Act. In addition to how to cut over \$1.5T in spending, negotiations continue on a number of health care priorities, as well as non-health care priorities, such as provisions on climate change, paid leave, and tax increases. Among changes to [health care](#) provisions of the bill, Democrats are exploring a [Medicare dental benefit voucher program](#) instead of a full extension of benefits to reduce the cost.

Whirlwind of Crucial Decisions in 340B Cases Coming Soon

Within the next several weeks, judges are expected to hand down decisions in several cases involving the legality of contact pharmacy arrangements and the 340B Administrative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process. The judge hearing Sanofi's case regarding the ADR process –indicated last week that she will hand down her decision on Friday November 5. The same judge is hearing the [Novo Nordisk's contract pharmacy lawsuit](#), and as all briefings in that case appears to be done, it is possible that she hand down her decision in that case on November 5 also. Decisions are also expected soon in Eli Lilly's contract pharmacy lawsuit and the PhRMA lawsuit about the ADR process

WORKFORCE UPDATE

[Governor Mills Announces New Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan Initiatives to Strengthen Maine's Health Care Workforce In Face of COVID-19 Pandemic - maine.gov \(10/25\)](#)

[States Use American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Strengthen Home and Community-Based Service Workforce - NASHP \(10/14\)](#)

[HHS Announces Availability of \\$100 Million for State Loan Repayment Programs to Support Primary Health Care Workforce in Underserved Communities - HHS.gov \(10/14\)](#)

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

NIHCM Foundation presents *The State of Oral Health: Increasing Access & Reducing Disparities*

Tuesday, November 9 | 1:00 PM | [Register](#)

In this webinar, we will hear from leaders in the field of oral health who are working to reduce disparities in access to and quality of care. Speakers will discuss:

- Federal initiatives to reduce health disparities and advance oral health equity, while furthering oral health in pediatric populations
- A health plan foundation's investment, in collaboration with the Duke Endowment, to improve oral health in the Carolinas, including in rural communities and school-based programs
- Interprofessional approaches to integrate oral health into education and care delivery models

Maine Resilience Building Network presents *Connecting the Dots: The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Health Disparities and Health Outcomes*

Thursday, November 18 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM | [Register](#)

ACEs are widely recognized factors in issues for children and adults for what are known as "diseases of despair" – suicide, substance misuse, and excessive alcohol use. This program will feature national and Maine experts and will connect the dots between ACEs, health equity, chronic disease and the importance of upstream prevention.

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

Work Force EAP, in partnership with the State of Maine's StrengthenME program presents *The Winter Wellness Series*

Hosted by Maine Primary Care Association, this free series will cater to all member health center staff who are interested in receiving emotional support and stress management tools. Work Force EAP and StrengthenME will co-facilitate to provide clinical supports during this 3-month series of webinars and lunch and learns. For more information, [click here](#).

WEBINARS OF INTEREST

NACHC presents *CMS Vaccine Mandate: Compliance Requirements and Operational Resources for Health Centers*

November 1 | 12:00 PM | [Registration & Information](#)

Please join NACHC to learn about the “CMS Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination” compliance requirements and impact on FQHCs. This webinar will provide:

- An overview of the CMS Vaccine Mandate, including the scope and application to health centers,
- Presentations featuring two Health Center leaders sharing their vaccine mandate lessons learned and how to increase the vaccination rate at your site
- An overview of NACHC’s COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Operational Resource Guide

NACHC presents forum #2 of *Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum*

November 19 | 2:00 PM | [Registration & Information](#)

Join several National Training and Technical Assistance Partner ([NTTAP](#)) organizations for the next session of the four-part [Special and Vulnerable Populations Forum](#). The next one-hour session convenes **Friday, November 19** and will address how COVID-19 has impacted health centers across the country and the special populations they serve. The Forum will identify, share, and promote promising practices, while highlighting and addressing challenges.



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.