

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

OCTOBER 5, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 31

## RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

In recognition of Indigenous People's Day on Monday October 11, we offer the following resources relevant to celebration of Maine's tribal communities and urge those of us living and working in Maine to spend time learning about the recent and ancient history of Indigenous People in the USA:

[LD 914, An Act To Establish Indigenous People's Day](#) - Establishes the 2nd Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day and changes references in the Maine Revised Statutes to the federally named Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day for use in the State.

In recognition of the historic, cultural and contemporary significance of the indigenous peoples of the lands that later became known as the Americas, including Maine, and the many contributions of these peoples, the State designates the 2nd Monday in October of each year as Indigenous People's Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity.

[Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness](#) - Serves four federally recognized tribes located in five communities: the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, and the Penobscot Nation. Services are available to community members living on and off-reservation across the state of Maine.

[Native Land](#) - An interactive mapping device, which serves to create and foster conversations about the history of colonialism, Indigenous ways of knowing, and settler-Indigenous relations, through educational resources.

[Voices from the Barrens](#) - a wonderful film about the Wabanaki people and their relationship to Maine's Wild Blueberry harvest. Watch the trailer here.

[Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit](#) - The coalition to stop Violence Against Native Women--4 out of 5 of our Native women are affected by violence today. The U.S Department of Justice found that American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average. Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among 10-24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age.

[An unmarked gravesite drags a not-so-distant horror back into the spotlight. Is this a real reckoning?](#)

[Remains of 215 Indigenous children discovered at former Canadian residential school site](#)

This summer's Washington Post articles about the horrific discovery of multiple graves at a Kamloops Indian Residential School with details about the historical lack of focus and accountability for missing and murdered indigenous people.

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

In 2 Days!

### 2021 MPCA Annual Conference - Virtual

***Embracing Change: Recovery, Resilience, and Reinvention***

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

## CLINICAL UPDATE

[Side effect rates from a third Covid-19 vaccine dose similar to those after second shot, early data indicate - STAT News \(9/28\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Deaths, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19 - CDC \(9/29 HAN\)](#)

[The Seven Symptoms That Best Predict COVID - Medscape \(10/5\)](#)

[Acute Myocarditis Following COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination in Adults Aged 18 Years or Older - Jama Network \(10/4\)](#)

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

First Session: October 6<sup>th</sup> | 12:00 - 1:00 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.

## DENTAL UPDATE

[COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy Among Dental and Medical Students - Practice Update \(9/30\)](#)

The following presentation from the National Network for Oral Health Access, [UDS Dental Data Trends: The COVID-19 Impact](#), uses UDS data to show trends over the last 5 years and focuses on staffing shortages from showing how COVID-19 impacted dental clinic operations and how these are interconnected.

## INTERESTING READS

[Pfizer vaccine for kids may not be available until November - AP Wire \(9/28\)](#)

Pfizer has submitted research to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the effectiveness of its COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 5-11, but the shots may not be available until November.

[New antiviral is highly effective, study finds, and is stirring hope that COVID-19 could be treated by a pill - USA Today \(10/1\)](#)

An experimental drug prevented half of severe coronavirus infections that would otherwise have sent people to the hospital, according to a study released Friday, offering promise that COVID-19 could soon be treated by a pill.

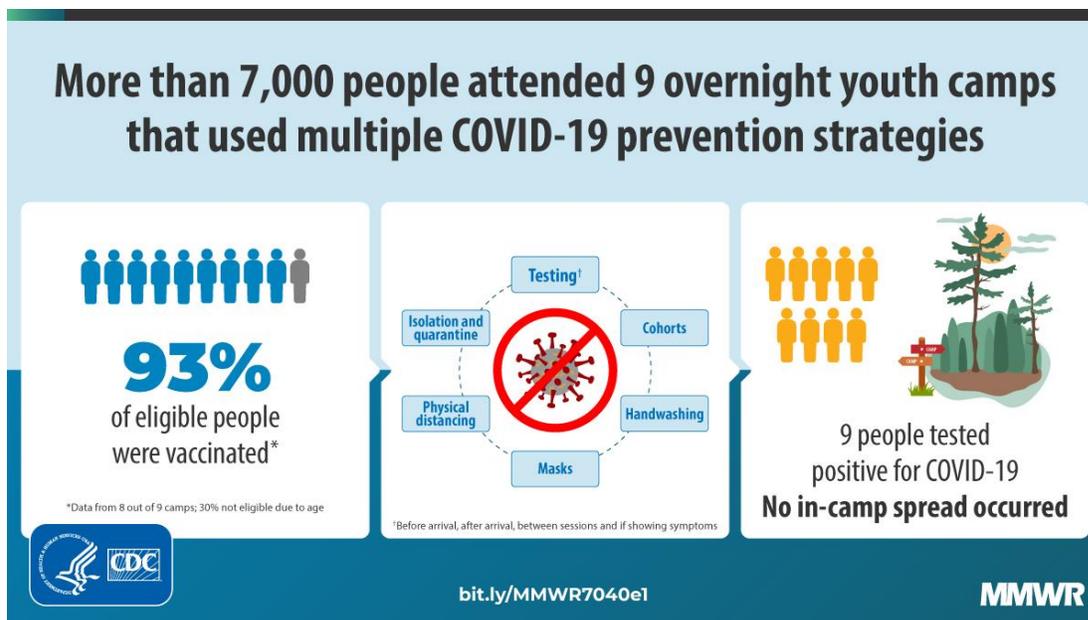
[There is only 1 town in Aroostook County where people traveling to Canada can get tested for COVID-19 - Bangor Daily News \(9/30\)](#)

People in Fort Kent live just minutes from the Canadian border, separated only by the St. John River. But in order to enter Canada, they must travel 100 miles in the opposite direction and back again.

[FDA announces key panel meetings on Moderna, J&J boosters, vaccines for kids - The Hill \(10/1\)](#)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has scheduled key advisory panel meetings in the coming weeks to discuss booster doses of both Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccines, mixing and matching vaccine doses, and vaccines for children ages 5 to 11.

[Here's a Covid strategy that worked - CDC \(10/1\)](#)



## **POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

### **Uncertain Process Ahead for Infrastructure and Build Back Better Bills**

On Sept. 30, 2021, Speaker Nancy Pelosi indefinitely delayed a planned vote on the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill (focused on bridges and roads) as the bill faced obstacles from a fractured House Democratic Caucus due to [opposition from progressives](#) who want to see progress on the larger Build Back Better Act. Democratic House and Senate moderates have expressed concern about the overall size of that \$3.5 trillion package and specific provisions, including those around drug pricing. Right now, the House version of the Build Back Better Act includes \$10 billion for health center capital funding, \$6.3 billion in workforce funding and other Medicare and Medicaid priorities. While negotiations continue, Biden is [directly speaking](#) with Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) to get a deal on a framework for the bill.

### **Continuing Resolution Enacted to Avoid Government Shutdown**

Congress moved quickly last Thursday to pass legislation to keep the government funded through December 3, 2021 after removing language that Senate Republicans opposed that would have suspended the debt limit. The House [passed](#) a separate bill to suspend the debt ceiling until December 2022, but the prospects for this bill remain uncertain as Republicans stand firm in their opposition to raising the limit. Democrats may have to raise the limit using the reconciliation process, but [Majority Leader Schumer \(D-NY\) has rejected the idea as too risky](#). While the deadline to raise the debt ceiling evolves, Treasury Secretary Yellen has said Congress has until October 18, 2021 until the government defaults.



### **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](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.

## **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.