

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

NOVEMBER 30, 2021 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 39

## CLINICAL UPDATES

[Association Between mRNA Vaccination and COVID-19 Hospitalization and Disease Severity](#) - JAMA (11/4)

[U.S. CDC: Increasing Seasonal Influenza A\(H3N2\) Activity, Especially Among Young Adults and in College and University Settings, During SARS-CoV-2 Co-Circulation](#) - Maine HAN (11/30)

## INTERESTING READS

[Scientists rapidly identified the Omicron variant. But firm answers about its impact could take weeks](#) - STAT news (11/28)

The emergence of [the Omicron variant of the coronavirus](#), with a suite of mutations that suggests it might be extra transmissible and be able to evade at least some immune protection, has the world eager for answers about what it means for the Covid-19 pandemic. But so much remains unknown largely because the variant appears to have been detected and publicized so quickly.

[U.S. to restrict travel from South Africa, 7 other countries as new Covid variant emerges](#) - CBS (11/26)

The United States will restrict travel for non-U.S. citizens from South Africa and seven other countries starting Monday, part of a global effort to stem the spread of the heavily mutated omicron variant of Covid-19, according to senior Biden administration officials.

[How the Covid pandemic ends: Scientists look to the past to see the future](#) - Stat News (5/19)

We're approaching the year-and-a-half mark of the globe's collective experience with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the Covid-19 pandemic it has triggered. At this point, it's fair to assume people the world over are asking themselves the same two questions: How will this end? And when?

## POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

### **Busy December Agenda for Congress**

Government funding will run out on December 3, 2021. Both the House and Senate will try to vote this week on another continuing resolution (CR) that could last through mid to late January – though some Senators are interested in a longer stopgap. Currently, the government is operating under funding levels set by the Trump Administration. Appropriators from both parties and the White House are working to reach a bipartisan deal on new spending totals for federal agencies.

Senate leaders are also continuing to negotiate on raising the debt ceiling. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has told lawmakers that Dec. 15 is the new deadline to avoid defaulting on the nation's debt. Sen. Manchin has said that Democrats may need to use the reconciliation process. Speaking to the press he said, "It's our responsibility to make sure that we take care of the debt ceiling. And Democrats are now in control, so we want to make sure we do it and do it right."

### **REMINDER: Health Center Legislative and Community Engagement Survey**

The purpose of the survey is to gain a better understanding of the Network's current legislative and community engagement activities and identify areas where MPCA can provide assistance to health centers going forward in support of our advocacy goals. It is 14 questions (mostly Y/N) and should take less than 5 mins. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to complete this [short member survey](#).

## DENTAL UPDATES

[COVID-19 testing kits can measure oral microbiome](#) - DrBicuspid (11/29)

[Local exhaust ventilation can control aerosols, droplets](#) - DrBicuspid (11/29)

## REMINDERS

### **Reminder! *The Winter Wellness Series* Continues**

#### **Next session December 8: Stress Management**

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](#).

### **Reminder - HRSA presents Clinical Leaders Forum:**

#### **A Focused Discussion on the Nursing Workforce**

Wednesday, December 8 | 3:00-4:00 PM | [Register](#)

COVID-19 has exacerbated an already stressed health workforce. In this forum, we will offer clinical leaders an opportunity to adapt and learn best practices from one another. We will be discussing growing and sustaining the health center nursing workforce during a pandemic utilizing an integrated care team model.



### **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!

## 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](#)

## 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.