

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JANUARY 25, 2022 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 46

## CDC UPDATES

[Expanded U.S. FDA Approval of Remdesivir for COVID-19 Treatment](#) - MeCDC HAN (1/24)

[Update to Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing](#) - MeCDC HAN (1/21)

[Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests](#) - USCDC (1/24)

[Types of Masks and Respirators](#) - USCDC (1/21)

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) - USCDC (1/13)

[Caring for Someone Sick at Home](#) - USCDC (1/19)

## ORAL HEALTH UPDATES

[Persistent SARS-CoV-2 IgG Antibodies in Oral Mucosal Fluid and Upper Respiratory Tract Specimens Following COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination](#) - Practice Update (1/15)

[Repositioned facemasks still cause artifacts on extra oral images](#) - DrBicuspid (1/14)

[Blindness case prompts call to delay oral surgery after COVID-19](#) - DrBicuspid (1/12)

## INTERESTING READS

[FDA expands use of Remdesivir to patients with high risk of hospitalization](#) - Reuters (1/21)

The U.S. health regulator on Friday expanded its approval for the use of Gilead Sciences' (GILD.O) antiviral drug remdesivir to treat non-hospitalized patients 12 years and older for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 disease with high risk of hospitalization.

[Gov. Mills calls White House, gets more COVID-19 treatments for Maine despite undercount of cases](#) - Portland Press Herald (1/24)

Maine has been getting a smaller allocation of a monoclonal antibody treatment because of a large backlog of positive tests that have yet to be screened and added to the daily total of confirmed new cases.

[Fauci says he hopes FDA will authorize Pfizer's Covid vaccine for kids under 5 in the next month](#) - cbc.com (1/19)

White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci said younger children will likely need three vaccine doses.

[White House says it will distribute 400 million free N95 masks to protect against omicron](#) - nbcnews.com (1/19)

The Biden administration will make 400 million N95 masks available for free at thousands of locations across the country, a White House official said Wednesday.

[Dental Dose: TikTok trend with serious side effects](#) - DrBicuspid (1/14)

### **HRSA's Vaccine Program Community Announcement** - Friday, January 21

Currently, there are 4 million doses of J&J in the field, and vaccine is still available for provider orders. However, HRSA's allotment for J&J is limited and once the inventory is exhausted, J&J will be disabled in the vaccine module of HPoP and unavailable to order through the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program. We strongly encourage health centers to use the doses in inventory and to coordinate with your state/jurisdictions to obtain J&J if needed.

Note: Many of these J&J doses expire in April 2022. Continue to check your inventory and expiration dates using first-in/first-out storage and handling practices.

**Is Your Health Center Hiring?** Click [here](#) to utilize the MPCA Job Board and list your openings on our website!

## POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

### **President Biden Announces Support for Breaking Up BBB Act**

In a news conference last week, President Biden expressed support for breaking up the Build Back Better Act into smaller pieces of legislation. However, this strategy could be problematic since the bill was designed to be passed using reconciliation, which can only be used a limited number of times per year and avoids a filibuster in the Senate by requiring only 51 votes. Republicans have resisted negotiating an omnibus FY22 with the BBB Act unresolved, and further negotiations could lead to another continuing resolution (CR) after the current CR ends on February 18, 2022.

### **FY2022 Appropriations Update:**

Negotiations on FY2022 appropriations are continuing and the number of legislative riders keep dropping in both chambers. No date has been set for final passage of the omnibus appropriations, but there is optimism for a February omnibus.

### **House Members Demand HHS Impose Immediate Civil Monetary Penalties for Contract Pharmacy Restrictions:**

On January 21, 2022, six House members sent a letter to HHS Secretary Becerra expressing concerns about the “slow pace of HHS’ enforcement efforts to date” regarding 340B contract pharmacy restrictions, starting that they have “emboldened additional companies to begin unlawfully overcharging covered entities”. The letter describes how the contract pharmacy restrictions “impedes the ability of covered entities to finance critical health care for their patients” and urges HHS to “move quickly to enforce the law and begin assessing civil monetary penalties on manufacturers that have denied 340B pricing to providers.”

## BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

[The No Surprises Act’s Prohibitions on Balancing Billing](#) - *cms.gov*

The No Surprises Act introduced new requirements for providers, facilities, and providers of air ambulance services to protect individuals from surprise medical bills.

**HRSA-NETRC 2022 Telehealth Tuesday Webinar Series: The Role of Telehealth in Expanding Access to Care and Social Services Part 1: Telehealth and the Impact of Community Health Workers (CHWs)**  
Wednesday, February 8 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | [Registration and Information](#)

For updates from insurers and other relevant information, please visit the [Telehealth Resources](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

## WORKFORCE UPDATE

### **ACU Presents Finding a Way Forward: Retaining & Recruiting Medical Assistants & Dental Assistants in the Changing Workforce Landscape**

**Part 1:** February 1, 4:00 - 5:00 PM | **Part 2:** February 3, 3:00 - 4:00 PM | [Register](#)

Join us for a two-part webinar series on promising strategies and best practices to strengthen your MA and DA workforce with our partners at the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) and National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA).

For resources and information, please visit the [Workforce](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

**Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP) presents Emotional Wellbeing during a Pandemic**  
Thursday, January 27 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM | [Register](#)

A forum, open to all at no charge, to connect and explore coping strategies.

*What’s happening?* Click [here](#) for a full listing of upcoming MPCA trainings and events.

## HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS RESOURCES

### MANA presents Communal Trauma and Healing

Thursday, January 27 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM | [Register](#)

**What is communal trauma and how do we heal from it?** In this panel, speakers will present different aspects of trauma and modes of healing. Summaries in French provided. The question and answer will be in both French and English.

For resources and information, please visit the [Health Equity/Social Determinants Resources](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

### CHCNET NEWS

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](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

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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 & Coding Channel**. Please feel free to reach out to [it@mepca.org](mailto:it@mepca.org) for help with joining.