

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JANUARY 4, 2022 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 43

CLINICAL UPDATE

[US CDC: Using Therapeutics to Prevent and Treat COVID-19 - MeHAN \(1/3\)](#)

[US CDC: Rapid Increase of Omicron Variant Infections in the United States: Management of Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure - MeHAN \(12/27\)](#)

[Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: Emergency Use Authorization for PAXLOVID™ - FDA.gov \(12/2021\)](#)

[COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests Correlate With Short-term Infectiousness - Medscape \(12/28\)](#)

INTERESTING READS

[FDA Takes Multiple Actions to Expand Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine - FDA.gov \(1/3\)](#)

Among them - expand the use of a single booster dose to include use in individuals 12 through 15 years of age; shorten the time between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and a booster dose to at least five months; and, allow for a third primary series dose for certain immunocompromised children 5 through 11 years of age.

[FDA allows boosters for 12-to-15-year-olds as Omicron surges - Portland Press Herald \(1/3\)](#)

The U.S. is expanding COVID-19 boosters as it confronts the omicron surge, with the Food and Drug Administration allowing extra Pfizer shots for children as young as 12.

[Our Relationship With COVID Vaccines Is Just Getting Started - The Atlantic \(12/29\)](#)

We probably will need additional shots. But just how many depends on our immune systems, the virus, and how often they collide.

[HHS dedicates \\$280 million toward transition to 988-suicide prevention hotline - The Hill \(12/20\)](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will dedicate \$280 million to transition the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to the three-digit phone number 988 in July 2022, officials announced on Monday.

ORAL HEALTH UPDATE

**Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Webinar:
Innovating and Integrating our Way Out of Maine's Oral Health Crisis**

Wednesday, January 12 | 7:00 AM **OR** Thursday, January 20 | 6:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Primary care providers have the greatest access to children when prevention matters most: before the decay process starts! Through innovations in disease prevention and new models of care delivery, dental and medical teams combine to reduce dental disease burden in Maine's children. Attend this program to learn how the Maine AAP is working with the Partnership for Children's Oral Health and Medical Care Development to create new opportunities for oral health care and prevention in primary care!

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the [Oral Health Resources](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).

HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS RESOURCES

**National Council for Mental Wellbeing Webinar:
Technology and Its Impact on Psychiatric Care of Older Adults**

Wednesday, January 12 | 3:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Join this webinar to gain an understanding of how digital tools can impact the psychiatric care of older adults and to learn more on findings of current investigations on digital diagnosis, tech-enhanced approaches, and the implementation of technology into the process of patient care.

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

SDOH Academy Kick-Off Webinar:

SDOH Academy Innovations Showcase Competition - Helping Health Centers Build Healthier Communities

Thursday, January 13, 2022 | 3:00 PM | [Registration](#)

The pandemic has pushed health care further into the future with the emergence of brand new ideas and the application of existing ones in surprising new ways. Knowing that health centers have been innovating way before COVID-19, we are excited to present: SDOH Academy Innovations Showcase Competition. Through the kick-off webinar, participants will learn more about how to access an on-demand 3-part micro-training module on the SDOHs and enter a competition to be featured as an outstanding SDOH innovation on our May 12, 2022 "SDOH Innovations Showcase" national webinar.

Maine Access Immigrant Network/MaineHealth "Ask the Doctor" Series - Jan - April Schedule

The *Ask the Doctor* series is a question and answer format connecting health care providers with community members on preventive health topics. It is a collaboration between the Division of Preventive Medicine at Maine Medical Center/MaineHealth and community organizations like Maine Access Immigrant Network. Community Health Workers, who not only act as moderators, but as translators, facilitate this public health dialogue. These are monthly sessions in French, Somali and Arabic.

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

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Action on CMS Vaccine Mandate

On Wednesday, December 22, the Supreme Court announced that it would hold a [special hearing](#) to assess the legality of the [CMS vaccine mandate for health care workers](#) and the OSHA requirement for large employers. The Court will decide if the government can enforce the mandates during ongoing litigation challenges in the lower courts. Parties had until December 30 to submit their briefs and arguments will be heard on January 7.

President Biden Announces New Actions to Protect Americans and Help Communities and Hospitals Battle Omicron

On Tuesday, December 21, President Biden [announced new actions](#) to protect Americans and help communities and hospitals battle Omicron, building on the robust plan he announced earlier this month to get people maximum protection ahead of the winter and prepare for rising cases driven by the new variant.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

Lessons for Advancing and Sustaining State Community Health Worker Partnerships - NASHP (12/20)

As states work towards a modernized public health system, while also grappling with significant workforce challenges in health care, many are identifying workforce strategies to build capacity, advance health equity, and improve health.

Bureau of Health Workforce Peer Call: National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Programs - (Recording)

The due date for applications is 7:30 PM on February 3, 2022. [Click here](#) for everything you need to know about applying. Reach out to Emily Ferry at eferry@mepca.org with questions or for assistance.

New Learning Collaborative: Implementing & Responding to Staff Satisfaction Surveys - Apply by Jan. 7, 2022 (Association of Clinicians for the Underserved)

Learn Best Practices for Starting or Improving Staff Satisfaction Surveys at Your Health Center

While some organizations are conducting staff satisfaction surveys, many could use support starting or improving their process. We invite health center teams to apply to join the cohort for this five-part learning collaborative to gain an understanding of and action steps for how best to conduct and follow up on staff satisfaction surveys.

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

[Upcoming Learning Collaborative: Strategic Workforce Planning for HP-ET Retention & Recruitment- Apply by Jan. 14, 2022](#) (Association of Clinicians for the Underserved)

Explore Effective Strategic Workforce Planning to Integrate Health Professions Education & Training

Recruiting and retaining providers is a challenge for health centers, and given the increased pressures of a global pandemic, the Great Resignation, and a pending Great Retirement in healthcare, organizations must approach workforce development and “grow-your-own” efforts strategically. Join this five-part learning collaborative to learn how to develop a Strategic Workforce Plan focusing on Health Professions Education & Training (HP-ET) strategies to enhance capabilities to recruit, develop, and retain provider workforces.

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](#).

MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christopher Pezzullo, DO	Chief Clinical Officer	<u>cpezzullo@mepca.org</u>
Bryan Wyatt, MA	Chief Public Affairs Officer	<u>bw Wyatt@mepca.org</u>
Lisa Tapert, MPH	Chief Program Officer	<u>ltapert@mepca.org</u>
Hillary Colcord, MHRT/C	Chief of Staff	<u>hcolcord@mepca.org</u>
Sharon Stanley, MBA, CPC	Director of Operations Improvement	<u>sstanley@mepca.org</u>
Emily Ferry, MSW	Director of Workforce Initiatives	<u>eferry@mepca.org</u>
Susan Whittaker, CPC, CPMA	Training & Risk Management Program Mgr.	<u>swhittaker@mepca.org</u>
Hannah Hudson, MA	Policy & Communications Manager	<u>hhudson@mepca.org</u>
Michael Pancook, MPA	CHCNet Program Manager	<u>mpancook@mepca.org</u>
Beth Pearce	Oral Health Program Manager	<u>bpearce@mepca.org</u>
Kristen Tounzen, MPH	Clinical Quality & Safety Program Manager	<u>kkilcollins@mepca.org</u>
Megan Cross	Program Coordinator	<u>mcross@mepca.org</u>
Ashley Cleary	PSO Program Coordinator	<u>acleary@mepca.org</u>
Becky Lambert	Behavioral Health Coordinator	<u>blambert@mepca.org</u>



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 for help with joining.