

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

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CLINICAL UPDATES

[Children Hospitalized with COVID-19: Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes](#) - *New England Journal of Medicine* (1/25)

[Association Between 3 Doses of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine and Symptomatic Infection Caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron and Delta Variants](#) - *JAMA Network* (1/21)

CDC UPDATES

[COVID-19 Reporting Requirements in Maine](#) - *MeCDC HAN* (1/27)

INTERESTING READS

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Takes Key Action by Approving Second COVID-19 Vaccine](#) - *fda.gov* (2/1)

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a second COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has been known as the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

[Op-Ed: Anti-vaccine patients vent anger on healthcare workers like me. It takes a toll on care](#) - *Los Angeles Times* (1/20)

As hospital workers risk their lives to fight the pandemic, some COVID-skeptic patients and families vehemently claim that healthcare workers are “poisoning” and “punishing” people.

[Will Omicron Leave Most of Us Immune?](#) - *The Atlantic* (1/21)

The variant is spreading widely, but won’t necessarily give us strong protection from new infections.



[Federally Qualified Health Centers and the Legacy of the Black Panther Party](#)

FQHCs have traced their history back to healthcare and Civil Rights activism and organizing in the 1960s by many activists, including the Black Panther Party.

HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS RESOURCES

[Mills Administration Partners With The Rockefeller Foundation To Mail 125,000 Free COVID-19 Tests to Maine People In Need](#) - *maine.gov* (1/28)

Five rapid tests will be delivered directly to 25,000 households in vulnerable communities.

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

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

[Sen. King and Sen. Collins support legislation to change telehealth restrictions on Medicare recipients](#) - *spectrumlocalnews.com* (1/27)

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

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

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Build Back Better Act Update

A number of competing priorities continue to make progress difficult for the Democrats' health and social agenda. This includes the FY22 appropriations process, emergency supplemental legislation, voting rights legislation, and the announcement that Justice Stephen Breyer will retire from the Supreme Court.

A renegotiated, smaller reconciliation bill that includes the most popular aspects of the Build Back Better package is being discussed. The slimmed down package might include provisions favorable to Manchin such as universal pre-kindergarten, health care subsidies and several climate programs. The proposals would likely be funded over a decade rather than the shorter terms Democrats had previously proposed. Some of Manchin's colleagues have been advised to take up such an offer, but the House Progressives will likely object to cutting the bill down even further than they had originally expected.

President Biden Requesting More Pandemic Aid

President Biden is asking Congress for "substantial" funding in an emergency supplemental bill to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic both domestically and abroad. House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro said that talks are in the preliminary stages about what is needed, and whether it might fit in with consideration of an omnibus FY22 spending bill. Congressional leaders have also said that extra pandemic aid would not be "fenced off as emergency spending" within a final appropriations package. This spending would therefore not take away from any non-defense discretionary spending that is under negotiation.

FY2022 Appropriations Update

Democratic leaders said last week that an appropriations deal is still within reach before the current stopgap Continuing Resolution (CR) ends on February 18. House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro also said that they have gone through constructive meetings and Appropriations Committee House/Senate leadership will continue to speak.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

The need for a well-trained, quality health workforce that reflects the diversity of communities in which health professionals practice is greater than ever. Yet the historical challenges in recruiting and retaining primary care providers, nurses and other essential health care workers has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, the Biden-Harris Administration has made historic investments in the health workforce to begin to turn the tide and better support the health workforce and promote health equity.

[HRSA's Health Workforce Fact Sheet](#) gives an overview of the health workforce investments by the current Administration in an effort to address workforce challenges exacerbated by COVID-19.

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

Maine CDC COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics – Call for Partners

This partnership is available to various entities who have the capacity to implement, immediately or in the future, a coordinated and timely pathway for streamlined diagnosis and treatment for patients with mild/moderate COVID-19 in the outpatient setting. The opportunity is available to those entities that are already involved in the administration of monoclonal antibody therapies and/or remdesivir as well as those which are interested in expanding provision of this type of care but are not currently operational. [Click here](#) for more information or [here](#) to view the webinar. [Click here](#) for the online application or to request a PDF version of the application, contact [Kristen McCauley](#).

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

ORAL HEALTH UPDATE

For resources and information, please visit the [Oral Health 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.

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 for help with joining.