

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 | YEAR 2, VOLUME 102

CLINICAL UPDATES

[Association of BNT162b2 COVID-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy With Neonatal and Early Infant Outcomes - JAMA \(2/10\)](#)

[Researchers Identify Potential Cause, Treatment for Long COVID-19 - Becker's Hospital Review \(2/15\)](#)



[Health Centers are Rooted in the Civil Rights Movement - NACHC \(2/7\)](#)

Health centers sprang into existence more than five decades ago as part of a “ripple effect” from the Civil Rights Movement. A group of activists, among them medical students and doctors from the [Medical Committee for Human Rights](#), descended upon rural Mississippi during what became known as Freedom Summer.

INTERESTING READS

[More contagious version of omicron spreads in U.S., fueling worries - NPR \(2/21\)](#)

As the omicron surge continues to decline in the U.S., infectious disease experts are keeping a close eye on an even more contagious version of the variant that could once again foil the nation's hopes of getting back to normal.

[Covid News: New York Backs Off Booster Mandate for Health Care Workers - The New York Times \(2/19\)](#)

The state said it wouldn't enforce the order, acknowledging that doing so could cause staffing shortages. Maine's processing of tests fell behind as the Omicron variant took off, skewing case numbers low. The U.S. surgeon general and his wife and young children have Covid.

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

President Signs Stopgap Funding Measure into Law, Avoiding Government Shutdown

President Biden on Friday officially signed into law the stopgap funding measure passed by the Senate Thursday night, averting a government shutdown. The bill will extend the funding until March 11. Lawmakers are also working to lock in a broader full-year spending package but have said they need more time to finish and, as a result, needed a short-term funding extension to avert a shutdown.

CHCs Advised to Heighten Focus on Cybersecurity as Risk of Attacks Mount

Last week, the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [issued alerts](#) about the increased potential for cyber attacks as tensions escalate between Russia and Ukraine. Experts agree that [health care providers are a prime target for such attacks](#), as the on-going strains caused by the pandemic make them particularly vulnerable. (For example, new or exhausted staff are less likely to recognize a potential threat.) Federal officials pointed specifically to concerns about [spear-phishing](#) email. Given these concerns, **CHCs are advised to “adopt a heightened posture when it comes to cybersecurity and protecting their most critical assets.”**

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

WORKFORCE UPDATE

[Public Service Loan Forgiveness: What's new, what's left out, and what steps to take](#) - *The DO (2/1)*

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

ORAL HEALTH UPDATE

[False-Positive Results in Rapid Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2](#) - *PracticeUpdate (2/18)*

[Splatter may be on eyewear even if dental teams don't see it](#) - *DrBicuspid (2/22)*

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

CHCNET NEWS

Data and Evaluation Speaker Series: Enhancing Health Center Data Interoperability with FHIR®

Thursday, March 10 | 1:00 PM | [Register](#)

During the webinar, Andrew Hamilton, RN, BSN, MS, Chief Informatics Officer of AllianceChicago, a HRSA-funded Health Center Controlled Network, will present a case study on leveraging FHIR® (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) for COVID-19 electronic case reporting. His presentation will illustrate how health centers used FHIR® standards to respond to public health emergencies as well as other common FHIR® use cases and the factors needed for health centers to implement FHIR® standards successfully.

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.

HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS RESOURCES

Addressing Rural Health Needs: COVID-19, Equity and Access to Care

Monday, February 28 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Rural communities have been hit hard by COVID-19. These areas are home to one in five Americans and have seen an increased risk of COVID-19 infection, lower vaccination rates, and additional health care access challenges. Access to care is lower in rural settings due to factors such as travel distance, broadband, and provider shortages.

In this webinar, we will hear from leaders in the field of rural health who are working to improve the health and well-being of these communities.

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

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

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

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

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](#).

MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

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



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.