

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

MARCH 15, 2022 | YEAR 3, VOLUME 2

Patient Safety Awareness Week | March 13 - 19

During the 2022 Patient Safety Awareness Week, taking place March 13-19, The Joint Commission will focus on healthcare worker resilience – turning the lens to the caregivers at the very front lines.

The events of the past two years have brought sharp focus to the need to advance from the “Triple Aim” of healthcare (health, care, and cost) to the “Quadruple Aim,” which adds improving the “health and well-being of care providers.”

As we enter Patient Safety Awareness Week, we want to share some of the resources that provide succinct insights to some of the major challenges caregivers face, either personally or in the context of their daily work. To learn more, read our [statement](#).

Here’s the agenda for the week; click on the day to find resources for each topic:

[Monday, March 14 \(Workforce Well-being\)](#)

COVID-19 exacted a toll on the healthcare workforce, and perhaps no members were more directly affected in the hospital setting than nurses and respiratory therapists. We need to build greater reliability in our healthcare settings and greater resilience among our colleagues.

[Tuesday, March 15 \(Healthcare Equity\)](#)

More than five decades ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and the most inhuman.” Scholars have written that he said “inhuman” not “inhumane,” as this injustice was not just cruel, but beneath human dignity.

[Wednesday, March 16 \(Workplace Violence\)](#)

Personal safety is important in any role or job, but it is even more important in healthcare settings, because if healthcare staff do not feel safe, they cannot appropriately care for patients.

[Thursday, March 17 \(Maternal Health\)](#)

Out of every 100,000 pregnancies, nearly 18 women die each year in the U.S., and poor maternal and infant outcomes, including death, are far higher for people of color.

[Friday, March 18 \(Mental Health\)](#)

Too often, when we think of mental health, we only consider the patient. Caregivers are not immune to the stresses, physical exhaustion, and moral injury that have been amplified in the cruel wake of COVID-19. Without a mentally healthy workforce, we cannot have safe care.

*** For more Patient Safety Awareness Week activities and resources, check out the [AHRQ website!](#) ***

HRSA presents Patient Safety Awareness Week Event: Harnessing Individual Power to Effect Positive Change

Thursday, March 17 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM | [Register here](#)

This year’s program will feature [Amelia Brooks](#), from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement. Amelia is a global leader in patient safety, high reliability, and quality improvement, who will provide strategies that healthcare organizations can implement immediately to improve the safety culture in their organizations. There will also be a virtual exhibit hall at the end of the session.

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

CLINICAL UPDATES

[Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#) - immunize.org (3/7)

[The COVID Heart—One Year After SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Patients Have an Array of Increased Cardiovascular Risks](#) - *JAMA* (3/2)

CDC UPDATES

[New COVID-19 Laboratory Reporting Requirements Go into Effect April 4](#) - (3/8)

[Get Vaccinated Even If You Had COVID-19 and Think You are Immune](#) - (3/4)

[Mask Use on Public Transportation](#) - (3/10)

ORAL HEALTH UPDATE

[Pandemic has long-lasting effects on hygiene workforce](#) - *DrBicuspid.com* (3/10)

[Long COVID and Oral Healthcare Considerations](#) - *PracticeUpdate* (3/8)

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

INTERESTING READS

[COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to decline in Maine](#) - *The Portland Press Herald* (3/15)

COVID-19 hospitalizations continued to decline on Monday and now have fallen 73 percent from the January peak to levels not seen since last summer.

[Covid cases are rising as omicron's 'stealth' subvariant spreads around the world](#) - *cnn.com* (3/15)

Covid cases are rising in Europe, with an increasing number being attributed to the prevalence of a “stealth” subvariant of the omicron strain.

[Charts Paint a Grim Picture 2 Years Into the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - *Kaiser Health News* (3/7)

The coronavirus pandemic is now stretching into its third year, a grim milestone that calls for another look at the human toll of covid-19, and the unsteady progress in containing it.

[New Study Suggests Red Wine Reduces COVID Infection Rates](#) - *Wine Spectator* (1/25)

A new study analyzed health data on nearly 500,000 U.K. residents and found that subjects who drank one to two glasses of red wine a day had a 10 to 17 percent lower risk of contracting COVID than non-drinkers.

HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE RESOURCES

[What to do if you're struggling with your mental health at work](#) - *npr* (3/14)

When you're not in the right headspace, being at work can be difficult. Whether it's depression, burnout, anxiety or something else, struggling with your mental health while you're waiting tables or sitting behind a desk can disrupt your life *and* your job.

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

Bipartisan Policy Center presents Transitioning Out of the COVID-19 Emergency Phase

Thursday, March 17 | 9:30 AM | [Register](#)

With COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths steadily decreasing, America is cautiously experiencing a return to some degree of normalcy. In this webinar, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and leading health experts discuss the implications of the eventual end of the public health emergency for the coverage and delivery of healthcare services.

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POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

President Signs Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Following last week's House and Senate votes, on Friday President Biden signed the FY22 Omnibus spending bill, which will fund the Federal government through the rest of the current fiscal year. The new law contains a 3.7% (\$65 million) increase for Section 330, consisting of:

- A \$25 million increase for school-based health centers, for a total of \$30 million.
- A \$20 million increase for Ending the HIV Epidemic, for a total of \$122 million
- \$5 million to establish a new program for Advanced Cancer Screenings in Underserved Communities

COVID-19 Relief Funding Removed from Omnibus; Future Prospects Uncertain

The initial draft of the Omnibus that was circulated last Wednesday included \$15.6 billion in COVID relief aid, in response to a White House request. However, by the end of the day, that funding had been eliminated in the face of a revolt from rank-and-file members of their own party. Democrats had initially proposed not to offset the cost of the new COVID-19 relief, leaning on borrowed money, as they did for the Ukraine aid. Republicans balked at that idea, however, and Democratic negotiators responded by proposing to offset the \$15.6 billion with funding sent to certain states last year, as part of the American Rescue Plan, but not yet spent. However, after House Democrats from those states were "up in arms" over the planned pay-for, the COVID funding was removed from the bill entirely.

Now that a COVID relief package would need to be a stand-alone bill, it may be a struggle to get the 60 votes in the Senate – particularly if it adds to deficit spending.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

[Nurse Practitioner & Physician Assistant Transition to Community Health Center Practice](#)

Do you know a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant that is within their first 3 years of practice at a community health center? Are you, or your health centers, looking for a way to support that clinician so that they remain engaged and productive?

Reserve a spot today in the upcoming cohort of the nationwide **Nurse Practitioner & Physician Assistant Transition to Community Health Center Practice** continuing education program, developed by Protea Innovation. The 4-month virtual interactive program focuses on clinical care, quality metrics, population health management, productivity, and overall wellbeing to build knowledge, confidence, and engagement. Participants can take advantage of early bird pricing now by registering early to join the cohorts starting this May or October! Contact us for group discounts for multiple participants.

Star2Center Recruitment Boot Camp—Spring 2022

The Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is hosting a learning collaborative that will assist health centers in reviewing their recruitment processes. This series will provide guidance, tools, and templates for health center participants to update their recruitment processes and lay the groundwork for additional workforce planning. Applications are due by April 1st and the first session begins 4/14.

[Learn more here.](#)

For resources and information, please visit the [Workforce](#) 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](#).

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.