

# COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

APRIL 12, 2022 | YEAR 3, VOLUME 6

## APRIL IS:

Many events are happening during the month of April! Last week we highlighted [Oral Cancer Awareness Month](#); [National Public Health Week](#) just wrapped up, with daily themes such as [Mental Wellness: Redefining the Meaning of Health](#), [Public Health Workforce: Essential to our Future](#), and [Racism: A Public Health Crisis](#). April 7<sup>th</sup> was [World Health Day](#); April 22 is [Earth Day](#).

In next week's issue, we will highlight **National Child Abuse Awareness Month**.



### CLINICAL UPDATES

[Omicron lasts three days less than Delta for boosted: study](#) - *Medical Xpress* (4/7)

[A way to prevent loss of smell and taste from COVID-19](#) - *Medical Xpress* (4/8)

[Study finds increased risk of serious blood clots up to six months after COVID-19](#) - *Medical Xpress* (4/6)

### CDC UPDATES

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#) - (4/7)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in Children and Teens](#) - (4/6)

### ORAL HEALTH UPDATES

[COVID-19 pandemic ups risk for oral cancer](#) - *DrBicuspid* (4/5)

[ADA poll: Dental practices are getting busier](#) - *DrBicuspid* (4/4)

[Dental tops list of delayed care for older adults](#) - *DrBicuspid* (4/7)

[UF researchers highlight COVID-19 oral testing device](#) - *DrBicuspid* (4/8)

[Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Oral Health and Psychosocial Factors](#) - *PracticeUpdate* (4/6)

### INTERESTING READS

[Community health center in Portland acquires 13th location](#) - *Mainebiz* (4/4)

After a two-year search, the nonprofit Greater Portland Health found the right property to open its 13th site for its mission to serve vulnerable populations.

[Lifesaving COVID-19 pills are being underused in Maine](#) - *Bangor Daily News* (4/7)

As Maine enters its third year of the pandemic, there are more tools to treat COVID-19, which can cause long-standing health effects that are just beginning to be fully understood.

### WORKFORCE UPDATE

#### **MeCDC and NETRC present The Role of Community Health Workers in Healthcare**

Wednesday, May 18 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM | [Registration](#)

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are a growing healthcare workforce in Maine. There is strong evidence supporting CHWs' ability to improve health outcomes by connecting patients with community resources and supporting healthcare teams. Register now to learn more about CHWs and how to engage with this workforce.

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

# SAVE THE DATE!

## MPCA Annual Conference

October 5-6, 2022

Samoset Resort | Rockport, ME



### POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

#### **Biden Administration Seeks to Fix Family Glitch**

On April 7, 2022, the Treasury department released a draft rule that seeks to fix the “family glitch” in the Affordable Care Act. The “family glitch” prevented dependents and spouses of people from utilizing ACA tax credits, as current rules stipulate that anyone who has access to coverage that costs no more than 10% of their income does not qualify for ACA tax credits. With this proposed change, administration officials estimate that about 200,000 previously uninsured enrollees and another 1 million people would be positively affected by the new rule by granting them access to more affordable insurance coverage. If finalized, the rule would go into effect January 1, 2023.

#### **Providing COVID-19 Vaccinations to Uninsured Patients**

NACHC is working with HRSA to provide updated FAQs for health centers providing COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccinations to uninsured patients and how these services apply to the sliding fee discount program. [Under the federal law](#), providers who receive the COVID-19 vaccine from the government may only bill private insurance or the federal government (Medicaid/Medicare) for COVID-19 vaccine administration fees. This means, Health centers are NOT allowed to pass any vaccine administration costs to uninsured patients. For questions, please contact Vacheria Keys at [VKeys@nachc.org](mailto:VKeys@nachc.org).

#### **ACU presents Eyes on Access**

##### **Part 1 - Introduction to Comprehensive Vision Services in Health Centers**

Thursday, April 28 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM | [Registration](#)

In **part one**, attendees will learn about the prevalence and disparities of vision conditions, the interconnection of vision and eye health with chronic disease and quality of life, and creative models for integrating vision services into community-based health centers.

##### **Part 2 - Steps for Integrating Comprehensive Eye Health and Vision Services into Health Centers**

Part 2: Thursday, June 9 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM | [Registration](#)

This **session** will focus on providing an overview of the strategies and resources needed for the clinical and operational implementation of vision services in health center and look-alike healthcare settings.

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

## **HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE RESOURCES**

[Poor people died from COVID at twice the rate of wealthy Americans, study finds](#) - USA Today (4/5)

People living in poorer counties died of COVID-19 at nearly two times the rate of people in wealthier counties, casting more light on the "shameful" impact of ongoing health and economic disparities, according to a report released Monday by a national civil rights group and research organizations.

### **CMS presents Achieving Health Equity**

This 2-hour self-paced course presents education on how to identify and eliminate health disparities in your organization. It will help your organization prioritize the elimination of disparities as a cross-cutting initiative to improve the quality of care for the individuals and families in your community, and align your efforts with CMS strategic goals.

### **SDOH Academy Innovations Showcase Closing Webinar**

Thursday, May 12 | 3:00 - 4:30 PM | [Registration](#)

Join the "SDOH Academy Innovations Showcase" Closing Webinar as winners of the competition will showcase their outstanding innovative work to address the SDOHs. This opportunity will allow you to learn how other multidisciplinary health care teams apply and share solutions to unmet needs while addressing multiple community-based interventions that will help strengthen your health center's SDOH practices.

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

## **BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS**

### **MaineCare Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Rate, CR 107185**

On February 17, 2022, the Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) updated the COVID-19 vaccine administration reimbursement rate retroactively to January 1, 2022 in accordance with the update to 100% of the Medicare regional rate for Maine, [as previously announced](#).

### **Weitzman Institute presents COVID-19 ECHO Spring 2022 Series Sustaining Telehealth: Balancing Virtual & In-Person Care from the Operational Perspective**

Wednesday, April 13 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | [Registration](#)

During the next session of our spring COVID-19 ECHO series, expert panelists from the front lines of primary care telehealth and workforce operations at a large community health center will discuss **how to balance telehealth and in-person visits, communicate efficiently with patients, and address challenges facing telehealth sustainability.**

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](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](#).



**MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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



**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.