

COVID-19 WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

MAY 3, 2022 | YEAR 3, VOLUME 9

CLINICAL UPDATES

[Can we trust rapid COVID tests against BA.2? This is what the experts say](#) - *npr.org* (4/27)

[With Omicron, nearly 60% in U.S. have been infected during pandemic](#) - *Statnews* (4/26)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Approves First COVID-19 Treatment for Young Children](#) - *USFDA* (4/25)

[F.D.A. sets aside June for potential decisions on vaccines for the youngest Americans](#) - *New York Times* (4/29)

CDC UPDATES

[COVID-19 Preventive Medication \(Evusheld\)](#) - (5/2)

[COVID-19 Treatments and Medications](#) - (4/29)

[What You Need to Know About Variants](#) - (4/26)

INTERESTING READ

[‘It’s insanity’: Providers end Covid care for uninsured in the wake of congressional inaction](#) - *Politico* (4/27)

“It’s truly irresponsible of the government to take away funding for Covid when Covid is far from over and health care systems are already strained,” said Coleen Elias, CEO of Community Clinical Services in Lewiston, Maine. “We have to pay a living wage to our staff that works extremely hard.”

[Moderna asks FDA to authorize first COVID-19 vaccine for very young children](#) - *npr.org* (4/28)

Moderna announced Thursday that the company has asked the Food and Drug Administration to authorize a low-dose version of its COVID-19 vaccine as the first vaccine for children younger than age 5.

[Are We in the Middle of an Invisible COVID Wave?](#) - *The Atlantic* (4/28)

On Tuesday, the national seven-day average of new COVID cases hit nearly 49,000, up from about 27,000 three weeks earlier. The uptick is likely being driven by BA.2, the new, more transmissible offshoot of Omicron that’s now dominant in the United States.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

NACHC presents Healing Hands: Celebrating Health Center Nurses

Thursday, May 12 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM | [Register](#)

Leadership and care team well-being are the keys to unlock the secret of organizational performance especially during the COVID-19 pandemic that is now in its third year. Webinar participants will learn about strategies to support professional growth and care team well-being with special focus on the role of nurse leaders. Support for emerging nurse leaders and health center care team healing are essential to this process.

NETRC: 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. Healthcare organizations are not always aware of the opportunities for engaging with CHWs. Join us 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

Congress Seeks a Pathway Forward on COVID-19 Supplemental Funding

As Congress returns from recess, Senate Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is looking for a [pathway forward to pass \\$10 billion in funding](#) for coronavirus relief. The package faces Senate opposition because of President Biden's upcoming decision to lift Title 42 restrictions. Title 42 is a COVID-19-related restriction that blocks migrants from seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. Republican Senators want to include an amendment to continue Title 42. On Monday, April 25, 2022, a federal judge temporarily blocked the Biden Administration from ending [Title 42](#) restrictions, and the Administration is contemplating next steps. Democrats are exploring whether to tie COVID-19 funding with additional funding for Ukraine to secure bipartisan-bicameral support.

Merck 340B Restrictions Extend to CHCs

On Thursday, April 28, Merck announced that they will no longer allow health centers to receive 340B pricing at contract pharmacies, unless they provide claims data effective May 31, 2022. As with other previous manufacturers, CHCs without an in-house pharmacy who choose not to submit data can choose a single contract pharmacy to receive 340B Merck drugs. This restriction only applies to CHCs, not to other grantee types. NACHC [issued a statement](#) in response, and is continuing to craft our strategy going forward.

ORAL HEALTH UPDATES

[CDC report details dental visit decreases between 2019 and 2020](#) - DrBicuspid (4/26)

[Do's and don'ts for oral cancer awareness](#) - DrBicuspid (4/27)

[Why our ancestors had healthy mouths without flossing](#) - DrBicuspid (4/28)

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

HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE RESOURCES

Maine AHEC Network is offering a [free online learning opportunity](#) on the topic of **Structural Competence and Cultural Humility to Address Disparities and Inequities**. This training will be offered twice, once on May 20 from 1:00pm - 4:30pm and again on May 31 from 9:00am - 12:30pm. You can select which session you would like to attend and [register online](#). Free CMEs and CEUS will be available for this training.

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

BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

[CY 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule \(CMS-4192-F\)](#) - cms.gov (4/29)

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

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

**New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH) presents
 COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Substance Use and SUD Treatment**

Monday, May 9th | 4:30 PM | [Registration](#)

This webinar will discuss effects on substance use and mental health during COVID-19, innovative practices in the delivery of SUD treatment services during COVID-19, and lessons learned to inform the future of SUD treatment in the “post-COVID-19” world.

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.