



MEMBER UPDATE

In this edition, you'll find the latest COVID-19 vaccine information and resources, OPCA's policy update, the April editions of the Operations Peer Group News, APCM Update, and the Health Equity and SDH Newsletter, clinician focused content, upcoming OPCA events, Oregon CHCs in the news, and much more content meant to inform and help you do your work better.

Thank you for reading.

COVID-19 Vaccine Effort at Oregon CHCs: Latest News and Resources

[Gov. Kate Brown announced on Tuesday](#) that Oregonians 16 and older will be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine starting on April 19. Visit [OHA's COVID-19 Updates](#) page for more.

Also on Tuesday, HRSA and the CDC invited all HRSA-funded health centers and Health Center Program Look-Alikes to participate in the [Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) to directly allocate COVID-19 vaccine to HRSA-supported health centers. HRSA will continue to update the [list of participating health centers](#) each week. [Join a HRSA Town Hall today, Wednesday, April 7, from 11:30am-12:30pm PT](#) to learn more about the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program and expectations for program participation. Submit questions to [Health Center Program Support](#).

Reminder! HRSA will hold a [Q&A session](#) on Health Center Funding on **Thursday, April 8, from 10-11am PT** on the [\\$6.1 billion health center funding](#) from the American Rescue Plan.



Latest Resources

- ♦ Listen to a [recording](#) of OPCA's April 6 COVID-19 Member Briefing or review the [slides](#). Email [Claire Tranchese](#) with questions.
- ♦ [OHA Virtual Learning Collaborative: COVID Vaccines for Clinics](#) every other Friday, noon-1pm, starting April 16
- ♦ [OHA Remote Community Vaccination Guidance](#)
- ♦ [Kaiser Family Foundation Analysis: Are Health Centers Facilitating Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations?](#)
- ♦ [Expanding FQHC Flexibility to All Sites](#)
- ♦ [OHA Toolkit for People with Underlying Health Conditions](#)
- ♦ [Financial Support for FQHC Vaccination Services](#)

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine information, visit [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#).

OPCA COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup

We know there are many remaining questions about how vaccines will be administered to your staff and your patients and where FQHCs fit in the vaccine picture. To support you in the development of your COVID vaccine programs, OPCA is leading a COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup. This workgroup includes weekly calls, as well as a Google Group that provides a forum for peers to communicate and where up-to-date, pertinent information is shared. Sign-up by emailing tcook@orpca.org.

Calls take place on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 8:30-9:30am PT**

HHS Launches Nationwide Network of Trusted Voices to Encourage Vaccination




Last week, [HHS announced additional measures](#) to encourage vaccinations and increase vaccine confidence as part of the next phase of its COVID-19 public education campaign, launching the [COVID-19 Community Corps](#) – a nationwide, grassroots network of local voices people know and trust who will encourage family, friends, and neighbors to get vaccinated.

When deciding whether to get vaccinated, research shows people want to hear from those they trust, such as medical professionals and leaders in their community. HHS will regularly provide updated public health information and resources for Community Corps members to share with their communities.

Other communication toolkits that may assist in messaging around vaccines:

- ♦ [Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Messaging Resource Center](#)
- ♦ [OHA COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Resources](#)

COVID-19: Latest Oregon CHC Response Numbers; OPCA Member Briefings





Oregon Health Centers' Response to COVID-19


As of March 26, 2021

The Health Resources and Services Administration is surveying health centers weekly to track their COVID-19 response and their patient and staff impacts. **83% (25)** of health centers responded this week. As of April 3rd 2020, when survey collection started, **over 50,000** health center patients have been tested for COVID-19 and **12,749** patient vaccinations have been completed.

Health Centers are Rapidly Adapting to Meet Testing Needs in Their Communities

-  **80%** have walk-up or drive-up testing
-  **100%** have the resources to test

This week's COVID-19 vaccinations:

6,228	Vaccinations were initiated		2,725	Vaccinations were completed
52%	of vaccinations initiated were racial and/or ethnic minority patients		44%	of vaccinations completed were racial and/or ethnic minority patients

HRSA Weekly COVID-19 survey summary report for Oregon as of March 26, the latest information available. Click on the image for the full two-page summary.

COVID-19 Member Briefings Take Place Twice a Month

WHAT: OPCA is hosts a twice monthly COVID-19 briefing to provide information and resources for CHCs. During this briefing, you can ask questions about emerging practices, policies, or issues with your COVID response.

WHEN: First Tuesday and Third Wednesday of the month at 2pm PT.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Open to all members

QUESTIONS or CALENDAR INVITE: Email events@orpca.org

Policy Updates That Matter to Health Centers

Read the latest on the state budget, ARPA funds, Biden's infrastructure plan, and more in the [April 2021 Policy Update](#)

OPCA Awards \$105,000 in Grants Supporting Health Equity, COVID-19 Programs

Fifteen Oregon Community Health Centers received \$7,000 each to fund COVID-19 programs, thanks to Cambia Health Foundation funding. [Read the April 6 OPCA news release.](#)

FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Opens in Late April

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) (EBB) program lowers the cost of high-speed internet service to ensure people have the connectivity they need during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. By the end of April, \$3.2 billion in funding will be available to provide qualifying households discounts on their internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet. [Eligible health center patients](#) may apply for the FCC program when it opens in late April.

Share information about the EBB program with patients available on FCC's [EBB webpage](#) (note that the content is available in several languages) or this [fact sheet](#). Another way to assist patients is to provide internet access and basic technical support at your health center so patients can complete the application.

CHC Mask Distribution Program Update

The Department of Defense, in partnership with HHS, is [delivering free masks](#) to FQHCs and Look-Alikes. Delivery will begin by late April. To opt out, [contact Health Center Program Support online](#) or via phone at 877-464-4772, Monday through Friday, 7am-8pm ET.

OPCA COVID-19 CHC Services Communications Toolkit Available in 11 Languages

OPCA has developed a [toolkit](#) to inform patients that clinics are still open and services are still available

during the pandemic. Included in the toolkit is a one-page flyer and social media graphics for Facebook and Twitter in 11 languages.

Grant Opportunity Funds COVID-19 Vaccine Access, Prevention for Farmworkers

The National Center for Farmworker Health is accepting applications for grants up to \$100,000 each. Nonprofit organizations, agricultural employers, and others are encouraged to apply to support programming around COVID-19 vaccination, testing, treatment, and prevention. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis with an expected project period beginning as early as April 16 through Sept. 29. [Visit this webpage](#) for the request for proposals and grant application forms. Information Session at 9am PT on April 8. [Register here](#).

Read the April Edition of the Operations Peer Group News

The latest edition of the following newsletter is available to read:

- ♦ [Operations Peer Group News](#)

Read the April Edition of the Health Equity & SDH Newsletter

In the [April edition of the Health Equity & SDH Newsletter](#), learn about the latest on the public charge rule being blocked, the extension of the eviction moratorium in Oregon, and much more news, resources, and learning opportunities.

Read the Latest APCM News

Read about changes to the OHA Medicaid Unit's team, delayed activities determined by the APCM Steering Committee and other news in the [April APCM Update](#).

OPCA Events: All Peer Group Spring Plenary; Annual Membership Meeting



REGISTER NOW!

All Peer Group Spring Plenary Focuses on Improving Health Equity With a Racial Justice Framework

WHAT: At the virtual All Peer Group Spring Plenary, OPCA will unveil our new COVID-19 race and ethnicity dashboard project and kick off a conversation about improving health equity in Oregon using racial justice frameworks. Guest speaker, Dr. Juan Jaime de Zengotita, is the Medical Director at Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and an instructor at Brigham and Women's Hospital Harvard Medical School. Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center is an FQHC leader in racial justice work through their commitment to addressing the root causes of disadvantages for people of color by hosting trainings on racial justice frameworks and health promotion work centered on racial healing and reconciliation for youth.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 28, 11:30-2:30pm PT

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: The following FQHC peer groups are invited to attend: Behavioral Health Leaders, CFOs, Dental Directors, Executive Directors, HR Leaders, Medical Directors, Operations Directors, Pharmacy Leaders

[Learn more and register here](#)

2021 Virtual Annual Membership Meeting

WHAT: OPCA's Virtual Annual Membership Meeting

During the Annual Membership Meeting, members will have the opportunity to:

- ◆ Elect Board Members and Board Officers for new terms
 - ◇ *Please note that OPCA CHC dues-paying members get one vote per organization and affiliate board members get one vote each in the elections.*
- ◆ Learn more about OPCA's Strategic Priorities and Health Equity Focus

WHEN: Friday, May 14, 1-2pm PT; OPCA Board meeting to follow from 2:15pm-4:00pm (after a 15 min break)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All members are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting and Board meeting that follows

[Learn more and register here](#)

Oregon CHCs in the News

A collection of news and announcements about Oregon CHCs:



White Bird Clinic:

- Was featured in this April 5 Register-Guard article: [Second gentleman Doug Emhoff comes to Eugene supporting Oregon COVID vaccination effort](#)
- Was featured in this March 10 Oregonian article about its Cahoots program: [Eugene-area program inspires a push for federal funding for non-police response to mental health crises](#)



Tillamook County Community Health Center was featured in a March 5 KGW8 story: [Smaller Oregon counties taking personal approach with vaccine rollout](#)



Yakima Valley's Lancaster Family Health Center was featured in this March 9 Salem Reporter Article: [Hoping to improve vaccine equity, Oregon allows some Salem-area health centers to vaccinate all patients](#)



Outside In was featured in this March 27 KATU2 story: [Portland advocacy groups prep to make vaccines accessible to homeless](#)



Multnomah County Community Health Centers' Charlene McGee sat down with OPB's Think Out Loud on March 11 to talk about [Multnomah County's focus on vaccine education and access for Black residents and African immigrants and refugees](#)



Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center and Multnomah County Community Health Centers were interviewed for this March 10 KGW8 story: [Four Oregon health centers chosen to get vaccines directly from federal government in effort to increase equity](#)



One Community Health's role in helping vaccinate Native people along the Columbia River was mentioned in this April 1 Oregonian article: [How one Native family on the Columbia River copes with COVID-19 loss a year later](#)



OHSU's Dr. Cliff Coleman was interviewed for this March 10 FOX12 story: [OHA says state is counting on honor system when verifying vaccine eligibility](#)

Other COVID-19 vaccination coverage:

- ♦ **Multnomah County Community Health Centers, Outside In, Cascadia Behavioral Health, and Wallace** were featured in this KGW8 article on [vaccinating the homeless](#)
 - ♦ The Lund Report's March 9 article, [Oregon Lets Low-Income Health Centers Vaccinate Anyone](#), includes **Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, One Community Health, La Clinica, Multnomah County Community Health Centers, Valley Family Health Care, and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinics**
 - ♦ KTVL's March 12 article, [Nine Oregon Health Centers to Join Federal Vaccine Program](#), names **Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA), Clackamas County, Outside In, Siskiyou Community Health Center, Wallace, Tillamook County, White Bird Clinic, Mosaic Medical, and La Clinica.**
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Spotlight on Staff: Introducing OPCA's Operations Senior Manager



Ryan Montgomery is a native Oregonian who loves games of all types because he finds it to be a great way of connecting with people.

Ryan was the Director of Law Computing Services at Lewis and Clark Law School before joining OPCA as the operations senior manager in December 2020.

[Read more about Ryan in today's Spotlight on Staff blog post.](#)

Inspired by the 2020 National Health Center Week theme, Lighting the Way for Communities Today and in the Future, OPCA launched the Spotlight on Staff blog for members to get to know OPCA staff a little better.

Media & Resources:

- Follow OPCA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see member posts on COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- OPCA's [Events page](#) features the most up-to-date information on registration, intended audiences, and who to contact with questions. We encourage you to take a look and bookmark it. Contact events@orpca.org with questions.

Sign up for OPCA's Member Update



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