



MEMBER UPDATE

We at OPCA are heartbroken at the devastation from the wildfires throughout Oregon and the western part of our country. This is profound loss and it's difficult to find comfort during this time. Our thoughts are with our beloved Oregon communities, our member health centers, their staff and patients, along with friends, family, and all those impacted by this disaster. There are not sufficient words to express our sorrow and the level of gratitude to all those on the frontlines battling the wildfires and serving the needs of their communities. We know many first responders aiding in community response to the wildfires are the same individuals and organizations on the frontlines fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic and have worked tirelessly for months. And yet again, they've been called upon to respond to another emergency.



Over the last few days, member health centers have shared the impact the wildfires are having on their organizations, and how again they have pivoted to sustain services and serve their patients and communities throughout this disaster. You are in our thoughts at OPCA as we look for ways to best support your needs throughout this crisis.

Please visit [OPCA's website for the latest wildfire resources and information](#) and we hope you will join us **Monday at 1pm** for a conversation on the wildfire emergency. See below for more details on this event.

Hoping you, your loved ones, and communities stay safe.

Joan Watson-Patko, OPCA Executive Director

OPCA Hosting Open Space Wildfire Conversation for Members on Monday

In light of the devastating wildfires, OPCA has postponed the planned member event scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14, and will instead host **a virtual conversation on Monday at 1pm PT focused on the wildfire emergency in Oregon**. The goal of this open space conversation is to connect with other Oregon FQHC executive leaders to talk about issues you need/want to discuss related to the concurring natural disaster and public health emergencies while still providing much needed care to the patients in your community and also taking care of your own staff and family. It's an opportunity to ask questions, share information, get feedback, bounce ideas of each other, share resources, and get support from others in the same situation.

WHAT: Oregon Wildfire Open Space Conversation

WHEN: Monday, Sept. 14, 1-2pm PT

HOW TO JOIN: [From your computer, tablet or smartphone](#)

Dial in using your phone: (872) 240-3412, Access Code: 155-323-021

QUESTIONS: Email events@orpca.org

Peer Group Gathering September Events Rescheduled for October

The All Executive Peer Group Gathering on Monday, Sept. 14, and all affinity group gatherings on Monday, Sept. 21, have been moved to October due to the wildfire emergency, **EXCEPT for the Operations Directors' affinity group gathering, which will still take place on Sept. 21, to discuss emergency preparedness.**

OPCA's decision to postpone this event and the content we committed to sharing is not taken lightly and

was informed by several of our members. We know that the work of health equity and narrowing disparities does not stop, and is only escalated, by disasters. OPCA will reconvene the equity discussion and affinity peer group gatherings in October. More information will be coming soon, but please mark your calendar for the following dates:

October 2020 Executive Leadership Team Peer Group Gathering

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1-4pm: All Executive Peer Group Gathering: Plenary

Wednesday, Oct. 14 , 1-4pm: Affinity Group Gatherings

Member Update Special Edition

A Member Update Special Edition arrives in your inboxes at times when OPCA needs to share important, relevant, and time-sensitive information outside of our regular Member Update schedule (first Wednesday of the month). Please reach out to the [OPCA's Communications Team](#) with questions. Thank you for reading!