

March 17, 2021



Inside today's Member Update Special Edition, we share the latest on:

- Vaccination reimbursement
- Public Charge rule blocked
- Vaccine volunteer liability protections
- COVID-19 information and resources
- Registration information for the All Peer Group Spring Plenary
- Oregon CHC Week at the Capitol social media toolkit
- OHA Ombuds program

Please take a few minutes to review the content below.

OHA To Reimburse CHCs at PPS Rate for COVID-19 Vaccinations

OPCA is pleased to share that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will reimburse health centers at their PPS rate for COVID-19 vaccination encounters. This also includes health centers that are part of the APCM program as the COVID-19 vaccine administration service will be considered outside the scope of the APCM program. This is the outcome we wanted. The linked provider resources from OHA give more details on billing and the APCM carve out. Please review and begin submitting vaccine encounter claims both past and future. The OPCA team continues to work with OHA on additional resources/FAQs to streamline and improve the process.

Email [Danielle](#) with questions.

- March 16 Member Briefing [slides](#) and [recording](#)

- ♦ [OHA Memo: FQHC/RHC Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration](#)
 - ♦ [Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Under the Alternative Payment & APCM Program](#)
 - ♦ [Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration for FQHC, RHC and IHCP Providers](#)
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Public Charge Rule Blocked Permanently

The 2019 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) public charge rule, that created fear and confusion among immigrants and their families, has been blocked permanently nationwide. This means the [rule](#), that stopped many people from accessing public benefits, is no longer in effect. If you are unsure if specific public benefits can affect immigration status, you should refer to Oregon Law Center's Public Benefits Hotline at 1-800-520-5292 and/or these [Public Charge updated fact sheets](#).

Volunteer Liability Protections and COVID-19 Vaccine Administration at CHCs

As Oregon's community health centers begin vaccinating their populations and those in their communities, questions about the use of clinical volunteers to help administer COVID-19 vaccines have risen to the forefront. This [OPCA three-pager](#) clarifies which liability protections are afforded under three Federal programs that cover health centers: The Federal Tort Claims Act, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, and the Federal Volunteer Protection Act.

Join OPCA's COVID-19 Vaccination Workgroup

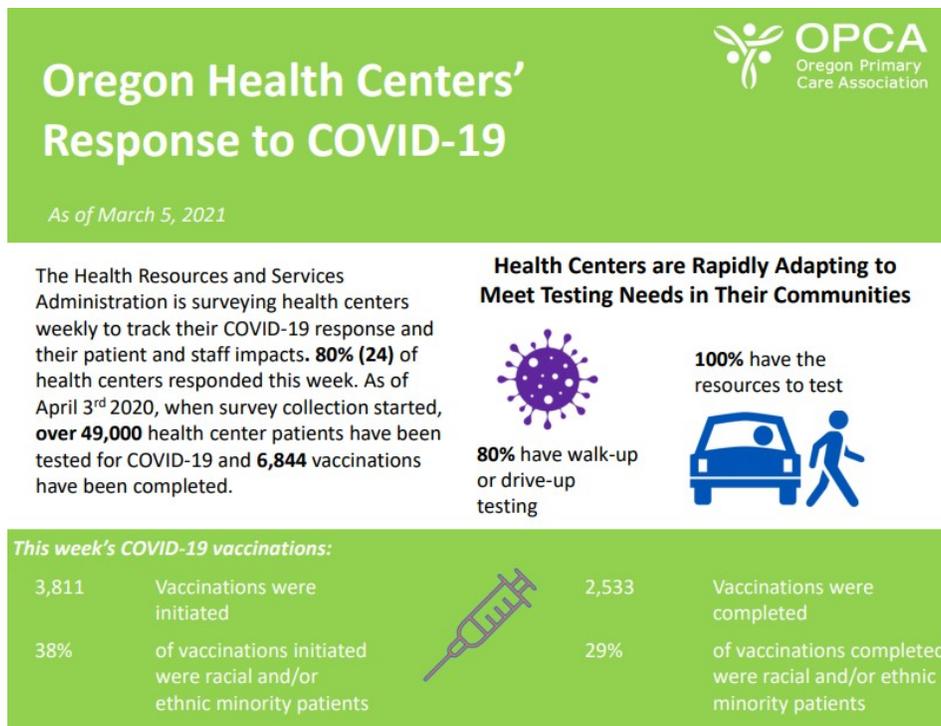


We know there are many remaining questions about how vaccines will be administered to your staff and your patients and where FQHCs fit in the vaccine picture. To support you in the development of your COVID vaccine programs, OPCA is leading a COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup. This workgroup includes weekly 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@orpc.org.**

OPCA COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup Calls take place weekly on:

- 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 4-5pm PT
- 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 8:30-9:30am PT

Latest Oregon Health Center COVID-19 Response Data; Member Briefing Series



HRSA Weekly COVID-19 survey summary report for Oregon as of March 5, the latest information available. Click on the image for the full two-page summary.

COVID-19 Member Briefings

WHAT: OPCA 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 share issues with your COVID response.

WHEN: First Tuesdays and Third Wednesdays of the month at 2pm PT

For questions or to get this series added to your calendar, contact events@orpca.org

For up-to-date COVID-19 information and tools, please visit [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#).

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: 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](#)

Oregon CHC Week at the Capitol Social Media Campaign: March 29-April 2



WHAT: Oregon CHC Week at the Capitol social media campaign

WHEN: March 29-April 2

WHO: Everyone who values CHCs

WHY: Since we can't gather as a large group in Salem, we are asking you to join in this social media campaign during the week of March 29-April 2 to help amplify the positive impact and value of Oregon's CHCs with members of Oregon's Legislature.

[Click here to learn more and download the social media toolkit](#) for graphics and selfie signs you can use to add your voice to Oregon's Community Health Movement.

OHA Ombuds Advocate for OHP Members Facing Barriers to Care

Within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) a team called the OHA Ombuds advocate for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members facing complex barriers to care. If you encounter OHP members who have had difficulty getting access to care they require, please refer them to the OHA Ombuds.

For referrals or to learn more, email OHA.OmbudsOffice@dhsoha.state.or.us, call the toll-free message line at 1-877-642-0450, or [visit the program website](#).

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