



As we start a new year, we remember a founder of the health center movement. [H. Jack Geiger, who died at the end of December 2020](#), was a leading proponent of “social medicine”—the idea that doctors should use their expertise and moral authority not just to treat illness but also to change the conditions that made people sick in the first place: poverty, hunger, discrimination, joblessness and lack of education.

May we all continue his legacy through our Community Health Center work in 2021. Happy New Year, and let's get to work.

Oregon CHCs Start Receiving COVID-19 Vaccines To Vaccinate Staff



Oregon CHCs with over 100 employees have started receiving COVID-19 vaccines for vaccinating staff. CHCs who have less than 100 employees should work with another provider, such as a hospital, other FQHC, or local public health agency, to receive vaccines.

For more information, read the [Jan. 5 OHA Phase 1a Sequencing Update](#), listen to the [recording of the Jan. 5 COVID-19 Member Briefing](#) or [review the slides](#). Email [Claire Tranchese](#) with questions.

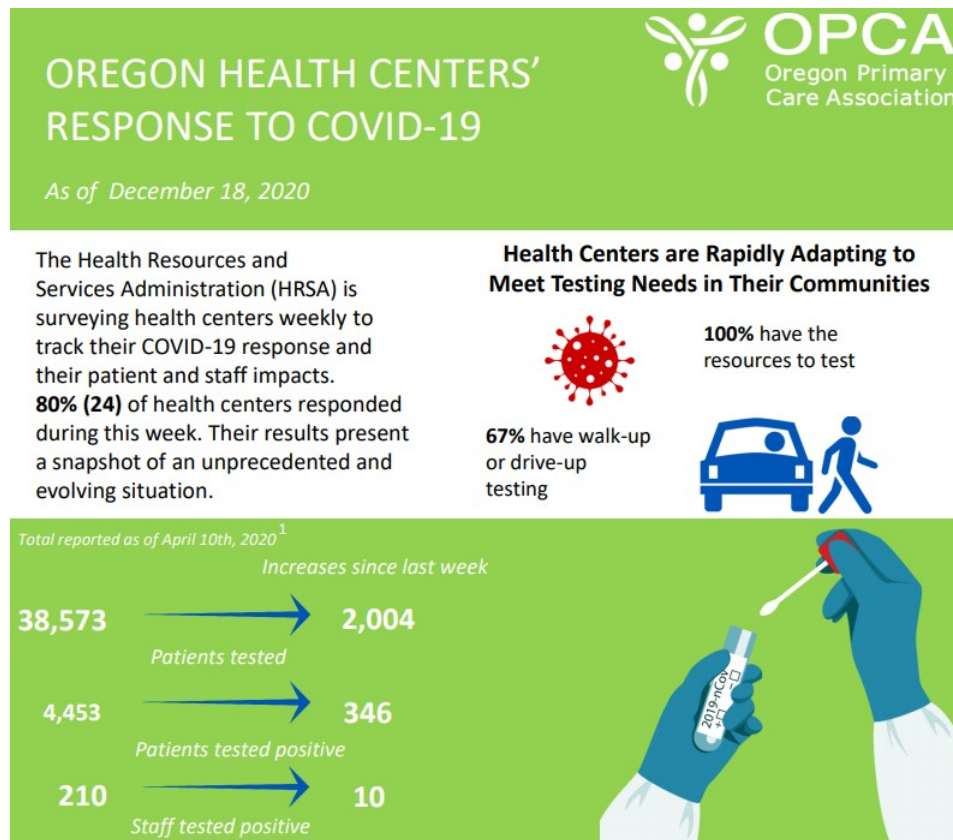
For the latest COVID-19 vaccine information, visit [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#).

Join OPCA's Vaccine Information, Best Practices 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. CHCs have a critical role in providing COVID vaccinations in Oregon.

To support you in the development of your COVID vaccine programs, OPCA is leading a Vaccine Information and Best Practices Workgroup. [Sign-up here](#). Email [Claire Tranchese](#) with questions.

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



Above is latest HRSA Weekly COVID-19 survey summary report for Oregon as of Dec. 18, 2020, the latest information available. This is one part of the two-page summary. Click on the image for more.

COVID-19 Member Briefings Take Place Twice a Month

WHAT: Starting Jan. 5, OPCA is hosting 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

For more COVID-19 tools and information, visit [OPCA's COVID-19 resources page](#).

Policy Updates That Matter to Health Centers

Today, Congress will likely certify President-elect Joe Biden's win with his and Vice President-elect Harris' inauguration to take place on Jan. 20. We dig into this as well as Oregon's upcoming 81st Legislative Assembly, the State's third special session of 2020, 340B, and the approval of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which provides three years of mandatory funding at \$4 billion per year. [Click here](#) to read our January 2021 Policy Update.

Oregon CHCs Required To Complete HRSA's Readiness to Train Assessment Tool

About 33% of Oregon CHCs have completed the RTAT survey. Please take 15-25 minutes to get your [RTAT survey](#) submitted. Every FQHC and FQHC Look-Alike in the country is required to complete at least one survey. Any staff at health centers are invited to participate—make sure YOUR health center's input is included!

For more details on this survey, please read the January [edition of the HR Leaders Peer News](#). Contact [Irma Murauskas](#) with questions.

January Editions of the Peer Group Newsletters

The latest editions of the following newsletters are available to read. Compiled by OPCA staff who lead these peer groups provide need-to-know information, training opportunities, and resources.

- ◆ [Integrated Clinical Peer Group News](#) for behavioral health, dental, medical, and pharmacy leaders
- ◆ [Operations Peer Group News](#)
- ◆ [HR Leaders Peer News](#)

You can also find the latest newsletters and past editions on [OPCA's Peer Groups web page](#).

Read the January Edition of the Health Equity & SDH Newsletter



In the latest edition of the Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health Newsletter, learn about a Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association PRAPARE panel opportunity, among other news and resources.

[Read the January edition](#)

Join OPCA's Advanced Care Learning Community Annual Conference in February

REGISTER NOW!

The [Advanced Care Learning Community \(ACLC\)](#) is an OPCA program that covers key topics relating to health center care transformation, with a focus on the evolution of the primary care team. The theme for this upcoming virtual conference is ***From Intent to Impact: Community Health Workers and Community Engagement to Empower Health.***

WHAT: This virtual conference is an opportunity to tune into health center conversations around transforming primary care in connection to COVID-19, health equity, CHW implementation strategy, community partnerships, and advocacy.

WHEN: Feb. 1 & 2, 2021, 8am – 12:30pm PT, followed by a lunch hour virtual poster session on Feb. 3.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Health center leaders and staff who have a particular interest or role in CHW implementation and community engagement

COST: \$55 for members/\$85 for non-members

[Learn more and register here.](#)

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.

Oregon CHCs in the News

A collection of news and announcements about Oregon CHCs:



Klamath Health Partnership's COO, Amanda Blodgett, shares the effect of the COVID-19 surge on its staff, estimating that roughly 20% of its 135-member staff were sick or quarantining the week before Christmas, everyone from clinicians to front-desk workers to call-center employees.

[Read the Dec. 28, 2020, Bloomberg article.](#)



Virginia Garcia's Dr. Eva Galvez talks to NPR's Rachel Martin, about the issue of vaccination hesitancy among the Latino community in Oregon in this [Dec. 15, 2020, interview](#).



Wallace's mobile unit is supporting the remote Blue River community after the Holiday Wildfire destroyed an Orchid Health Clinic there in late September. [Read the OPCA Member Stories blog](#).



Mosaic Medical announced in mid December that it was awarded \$43,000 from the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC). The funds will be used to improve communication and language access services for Mosaic patients. [Read the news release](#).



Rinehart Clinic's Quality Director, Denise Weiss, was a guest on [KTIL Radio's Tillamook Today show on Jan. 4](#) talking about what the CHC is doing to help combat the opioid crisis in Tillamook County.



White Bird Clinic's CAHOOTS program was featured in a [Dec. 28, 2020, article in The Atlantic](#), as a successful crisis-response program that has reduced the footprint of law enforcement—and maybe even the likelihood of police violence.

Spotlight on Staff: Introducing OPCA's Data Specialist

Inspired by the theme of NHCW, Lighting the Way for Communities Today and in the Future, we've launched the Spotlight on Staff blog as a space for members to get to know our talented staff members a little better.



Sarah Heppler still debates whether to call herself an Oregonian. Raised in California, she moved to Oregon to attend college at the University of Oregon and fell in love with the Pacific Northwest. During college, she interned with the California Primary Care Association. Sarah joined OPCA in April 2019 from Zoom+Care.

Sarah's work in 2020 has been focused on COVID-19 and social determinants of health data. She spends a lot of time in Excel and Tableau looking at data and trying to think of creative ways to visualize that data.

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

Media & Resources:

- ♦ [COVID-19 Oregon Vaccine Provider Communications Toolkit](#): Resources for health care providers who need to talk about and promote the COVID-19 vaccine

Sign up for OPCA's Member Update



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