



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

Thank you for reading.

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Effort at Oregon CHCs: Federal Allocations, Resources

Last week, the Biden administration and [HRSA announced the 250 health centers](#) in the next phase to receive direct shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine. Oregon CHCs to receive direct allocations include Multnomah County Health Department, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, the CHCs of Lane County, and Neighborhood Health Center. The Bureau for Primary Health Care (BPHC) has emphasized that these vaccines are intended to complement, not supplant, vaccines received through these health centers' state and local public health departments. NACHC released [this letter](#) on this issue. CHC responses to the Weekly HRSA/BPHC COVID-19 Survey were one element used to determine which CHCs were prepared to receive vaccinations.



## Latest Resources

- ◆ [OPCA's Feb. 19 Statement on CHCs Getting Direct COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution in State & Federal Efforts To Ensure Access and Equity](#)
- ◆ Listen to a [recording](#) of OPCA's March 2 COVID-19 Member Briefing or review the [slides](#). Email [Claire Tranchese](#) with questions.
- ◆ COVID-19 Vaccine [Talking Points from NACHC](#)
- ◆ [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Resources](#)
- ◆ [NACHC COVID-19 Communications Toolkit](#) for Health Centers, including vaccine communications tools, selfie signs, and more in Spanish and English.
- ◆ For the latest COVID-19 vaccine information, visit [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#).

## OPCA COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup

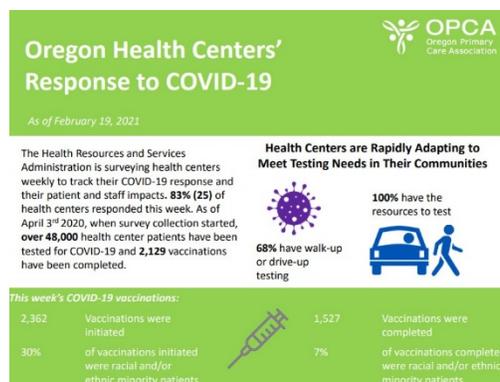
We know there are many remaining questions about how vaccines will be administered to your staff and your patients and where FQHCs fit in the vaccine picture. To support you in the development of your COVID vaccine programs, OPCA is leading a COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup. This workgroup includes weekly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

Calls take place weekly on:

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

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



HRSA Weekly COVID-19 survey summary report for Oregon as of Feb. 19, 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. *Note: The Wednesday, March 17, briefing will take place Tuesday, March 16, 2-3pm PT.*

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Open to all members

**QUESTIONS or CALENDAR INVITE:** Email [events@orpca.org](mailto:events@orpca.org)

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## Policy Updates That Matter to Health Centers

Oregon's legislative session is in full swing. Inside this month's Policy Update we break down the latest Economic and Revenue Forecast, cover last week's walk-out, have and the latest state vaccine rollout info. On the federal front we've got news on CHC vaccine shipments along with a COVID relief package update.

[Read the March 2021 Policy Update](#)

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## White House Announces CHC Mask Distribution Program

The Biden administration, in partnership with HHS and the Department of Defense (DoD), [will deliver free masks to HRSA-funded health centers](#) for distribution to patients, staff, and community members. [Here's what we know about the program](#) as of Feb. 25.

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## Read the March Edition of the Operations Peer Group News

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

- ♦ [Operations Peer Group News](#)

Visit [OPCA's Peer Groups page](#) for past editions of the Operations Peer Group News, HR Leaders Peer News, and the Integrated Clinical Peer Group News.

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## Read the March Edition of the Health Equity & SDH Newsletter



In the [March edition of the Health Equity & SDH Newsletter](#), learn about the final report from the Oregon Health Authority's Social Determinants of Health Measurement Workgroup, the latest on public charge, and other news, research, learning opportunities, and resources.

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## OPCA Launching Community Health Worker Deployment Peer Group

OPCA will convene and support a peer group focused on enhancing the role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) at Oregon health centers; unlike other peer groups, this group will be defined by the CHW interest-area, rather than role.

Our goal is to build health center capacity for successful deployment of CHWs as members of a primary care team and will touch on key strategic and operational topics relating to CHW program design and implementation, culturally specific services, strategies to address health disparities, and empowerment of the CHW workforce. Learn [more here](#) or [register to join the kick off meeting](#) on **March 15 from 1-4pm**.

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## Oregon CHCs in the News

A collection of news and announcements about Oregon CHCs:



**Central City Concern** celebrated the re-opening of The Henry Building in Downtown Portland. Read the [Feb. 3 news release and watch the virtual tour](#) of the building, which now features 173 new and rehabilitated homes for some of the most vulnerable individuals, including veterans and those with experience in the criminal justice system.



**White Bird Clinic's** CAHOOTS program has inspired legislation, included in the COVID-19 relief package, to provide funding for states to adopt White Bird's mobile crisis model, according to this [Feb. 19 Eugene Weekly article](#).



### Mosaic Medical:

- Was featured in this [Feb. 19 The Bulletin article](#) for providing COVID-19 vaccinations to residents of a homeless shelter in Bend.
- Announced on Feb. 24 the creation of the [Kemple Children's Dental Fund](#) that will provide integrated dental services at Mosaic clinics for children throughout Central Oregon who are uninsured or from low-income homes.



## Multnomah County Health Department:

- ♦ Four clinic staff were the focus of this [Feb. 8 KATU2 story](#) about the experiences of health care workers on front lines of COVID-19 pandemic in Oregon.
  - ♦ [Opened a new dental clinic](#) on Feb. 11 at the North Portland Health Center.
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## Spotlight on Staff: Introducing OPCA's Office Administrator



Brecklynn Williams, moved to Portland from Missouri over four years ago with her two dogs. She joined OPCA as the office administrator in December 2020.

Before COVID-19 hit in March 2019, Brecklynn worked as a preschool teacher and part-time front desk administrator at the Nike Child Development Center. At OPCA, Brecklynn works with OPCA's Operations Team to ensure that things are running smoothly behind the scenes.

Brecklynn welcomes your indoor plant growing tips and barbecue restaurant suggestions. [Read more about Brecklynn 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.*

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## 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](mailto:events@orpca.org) with questions.

- ◆ NACHC's [blog posts celebrating Black History Month](#)

## Sign up for OPCA's Member Update

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