



CMS Snapshot

February 17-24, 2022

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 17 through 2pm Thursday, February 24, 2022.

News Releases

*February 18- [Readout of Secretary Becerra Virtual Roundtable on the Importance of Build Back Better's Critical Investments in Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\)](#). On February 17, 2022, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra participated in a virtual roundtable with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12) on the need for Build Back Better's critical investments in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

*February 18- [In Florida, Secretary Becerra Encourages COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters, Spotlights Community Efforts to Increase Vaccine Confidence](#). Today, February 18, in Jacksonville, Florida, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra urged Floridians to get vaccinated and boosted and spotlighted the Biden-Harris Administration's work to boost vaccine confidence, COVID-19 testing, and support frontline workers. During the trip, Secretary Becerra hosted a roundtable with a grassroots organization working to increase vaccinations and vaccine confidence in the Black community, visited a COVID-19 testing site, and toured a hospital. Throughout the trip, he engaged with local elected leaders, volunteers, and health care workers who have been fighting to keep Americans healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*February 23- [New HHS Report Highlights 40 Percent Decline in Uninsured Rate Among Black Americans Since Implementation of the Affordable Care Act](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new report that shows historic gains in health care coverage access and affordability among Black Americans. The report, which was produced by researchers in HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), shows that since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) coverage provisions beginning in 2010, the uninsured rate among Black Americans under age 65 decreased from 20 percent in 2011 (approximately 7.1 million people) to 12 percent in 2019 (approximately 4.4 million people), a decline of 40 percent.

*February 24- [HHS Distributing \\$560 Million in Provider Relief Fund Payments to Health Care Providers Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making more than \$560 million in Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 General Distribution payments to more than 4,100 providers across the country this week.

Blogs

*February 18- [National Eating Disorder Awareness Week 2022](#). More than 28 million Americans will have an eating disorder in their lifetime. Individuals of all ages, race/ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, body shapes, weights, socioeconomic statuses, and levels of physical activity can develop an eating disorder. Eating disorders are more likely to appear in teen years or young adulthood, and cases have increased among children, older adults, and military service members.

*February 23- [Putting Health and Equity at the Center when Addressing Climate Change](#). When many people think about climate change, they think about far-away places, like the Arctic, and far-away times in the future. But climate change is happening now, and the impacts on people in the United States (U.S.) are real. The face of climate change is a human face.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on all CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19 pandemic. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov