



CMS Snapshot

January 13- January 20, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 13 through 2pm January 20, 2022.

News Releases

*January 13- [Statement by CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure On the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision on Vaccine Requirements](#). "The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is extremely pleased the Supreme Court recognized CMS' authority to set a consistent COVID-19 vaccination standard for workers in facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid. CMS' vaccine rule will cover 10.4 million health care workers at 76,000 medical facilities. Giving patients assurance on the safety of their care is a critical responsibility of CMS and a key to combatting the pandemic."

*January 13- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Supreme Court COVID-19 Vaccine Decisions](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision today to allow implementation of the health care facility vaccination rule, as well as the Court's decision to block broader vaccine requirements for businesses:

*January 13- [Secretary Becerra Welcomes New Deputy Chief of Staff Angela Ramirez](#). Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra welcomed Angela Ramirez to the role of Deputy Chief of Staff. Ramirez, a former Special Assistant to the President and House Legislative Affairs Liaison, will replace Anne Reid.

*January 13- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Bilateral Meeting with the Director-General of the World Health Organization](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke today with the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Joined by Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, Loyce Pace, the Office of Global Affairs' Director of Multilateral Relations, Mara Burr, and Geneva-based health attaché, Tracy Carson, the Secretary conveyed his appreciation on behalf of the United States government to WHO for their global leadership in the COVID-19 response.

*January 13- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Bilateral Meeting with the Canadian Minister of Health](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke today with the new

Minister of Health of Canada, Dr. Jean-Yves Duclos. Joined by Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, Loyce Pace and the Office of Global Affairs' Director of the Americas Region, Nelson Arboleda, the Secretary congratulated Minister Duclos on his recent appointment and conveyed his appreciation on behalf of the United States government to Canada for the longstanding and collaborative health partnership between the two countries.

*January 14- [Readout of a Tennessee Virtual Panel on Health Care Access](#). Yesterday afternoon, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra participated in virtual roundtable to thank and encourage organizations helping Tennesseans gain health coverage ahead of the January 15th deadline to sign up for a plan on HealthCare.gov or Medicaid. Tennessee has an [uninsured rate](#) that's above the national average and saw significant coverage declines in [previous years](#).

*January 18- [ONC Completes Critical 21st Century Cures Act Requirement, Publishes the Trusted Exchange Framework and the Common Agreement for Health Information Networks](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and its Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE), The Sequoia Project, Inc., today announced the publication of the Trusted Exchange Framework and the Common Agreement (TEFCA). Entities will soon be able to apply and be designated as Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs). QHINs will connect to one another and enable their participants to engage in health information exchange across the country.

*January 18- [HHS Announces Availability of \\$13 Million to Increase Behavioral Health Care Access in Rural Communities](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of \$13 million in funding to increase access to behavioral health care services and address health inequities in rural America, including through evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment for substance use disorder.

*January 19- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Issues Statement on New CDC Data Showing Significant Drop in the Uninsurance Rate](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released the statement below, based on [new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - PDF](#) showing a decline in the uninsured rate in 2021.

*January 20- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards \\$103 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Reduce Burnout and Promote Mental Health and Wellness Among Health Care Workforce](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), today announced \$103 million in awards to improve the retention of health care workers and help respond to the nation's critical staffing needs by reducing burnout and promoting mental health and wellness among the health care workforce.

*January 20- [Readout of Secretary Becerra's Virtual Roundtable on the Provider Workforce and Pipeline](#). On January 19, 2022, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable to discuss the challenges facing the health care

workforce pipeline, which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic — and how we’re working to support health care workers.

Blogs

*January 16- [Now that Open Enrollment is over, see health insurance options](#). If you missed the January 15 deadline for 2022 coverage, you may still be able to get or change 2022 coverage 2 ways: with a [Special Enrollment Period](#) or through [Medicaid](#) or the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#).

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. 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