



**October 2021**

**NAWHC NOW!** provides information offered by the National Association of Worksite Health Centers and other industry experts on programs, developments, resources and benchmarking surveys related to onsite, near-site, mobile and virtual worksite clinics. Visit [www.nawhc.org](http://www.nawhc.org) for details and membership information.

**EDUCATION** – Details on all programs and registrations are available at <https://www.nawhc.org/Events>

***How COVID-19 Accelerated the Opioid Epidemic - November 2, 2021, 10:30 AM CT Webinar***

Learn the impact of COVID-19 on opioid treatment and how leading firms are using an integrated provider approach to reduce costs, improve quality and satisfaction, while reducing the need for opioids.

[Register at this link.](#)

***Selecting a Worksite Health Center Partner and Transitioning Clinic Partners - January 25, 2022 -12:00 PM CT Webinar***

Successful worksite health centers have a foundation of partnership and understanding between the sponsoring employer and their service partner – whether a third-party vendor or a local health provider. This session reviews the key areas and legal items to address, as well as a checklist and recommendations for transitioning or closing a worksite center.

[Register at this link](#)

**BENCHMARKING**

***2021 Worksite Health Center Benchmarking Survey Results***

This week NAWHC and its partner Mercer released the results of their 2021 Worksite Health Center national survey. Mercer and NAWHC worked with the following clinic management companies to distribute the survey to employers: CareATC, Cerner, Evernorth, Everside Health, Marathon Health and Medcor. The survey was fielded from March–April 2021 and 142 employers with clinics provided information. These organizations ranged in size from 30 to over 300,000 employees.

Key findings from the 2021 Survey:

- Employer-sponsored clinics continue to be a key health and benefits strategy, especially among large employers, as nearly a third of all organizations with at least 5,000 employees offer a primary care clinic to their employees. This rises to 38% for employers with 20,000 or more employees.
- One fourth of employers with 5,000 or more employees provide occupational services through an employer-sponsored clinic; in most cases, the clinic provides both occupational and primary care services.
- The pandemic has not caused clinic sponsors to retrench to any significant degree. Only 1% of respondents say they will decrease the number of clinic locations because of the pandemic.
- Clinic utilization rates – the percentage of eligible individuals accessing clinic services at least once during the year – averaged 52% for employees and 32% for dependents in 2020, essentially unchanged from 53% and 31% in 2019.

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You can obtain the results of the survey at [this link](#).

## ADVOCACY

### *Extending the Exception for Telehealth Services*

NAWHC is co-signer of a letter by leading business and health care organization urging Congressional leaders to consider making permanent the current policies that allow telehealth and remote cares services to be treated as an excepted benefit. This would help those patients with Health Savings Accounts obtain telehealth services without having first met their HSA deductible. If you want a copy of the letter or to participate in this effort, contact Larry Boress at [lboress@nawhc.org](mailto:lboress@nawhc.org)

### *Fair Market Value Collaborative*

NAWHC's Fair Market Value Collaborative (FMVC) is working closely with and supporting ERIC (The ERISA Industry Committee) in efforts to revise the definition of "onsite clinic" and the IRS requirement that those with HSAs must pay a "fair market value fee" before getting services at an employer's health center, even if other employees with PPOs don't have any fees. The activities are aimed at enabling those with HSAs to obtain a variety of medical, disease management and other services at worksite centers prior to meeting their deductible.

ERIC is scheduling virtual meetings with a number of key legislators and their staffs who sit on committees that have jurisdiction on this issue. The purpose of the meetings is to educate them on the prevalence and value of worksite centers to their constituencies.

The upcoming meetings are:

**Tuesday, November 9** - 2:00 p.m. (ET) with Rep. Dan Kildee's Office (D-MI-5)

**Wednesday, November 10** - 1:00 p.m. (ET) with Senator Maria Cantwell's Office (D-WA)

**Wednesday, November 10** - 3:30 p.m. (ET) with Rep. Jimmy Gomez's Office (D-CA-34)

If you want to participate in one or more of these meetings, contact Christina Ciconte ([cciconte@eric.org](mailto:cciconte@eric.org)) for a link to the virtual meeting.

*We need help in identifying employers and unions with clinics and their covered lives for the states of Delaware, Washington, Michigan, and California. If you have a center in those states, please contact Larry Boress at [lboress@nawhc.org](mailto:lboress@nawhc.org).*

## RESOURCES

### *CDC Guidance on COVID-19 Booster*



As an Affiliate Partner with the CDC/ NIOSH *Total Worker Health* program, we receive timely updates on COVID-19 and other issues. This week NAWHC members had a chance to listen to CDC updated guidance on the vaccine boosters.

Data show that administration of a booster shot may result in increases in antibody levels and may result in increased effectiveness compared to primary vaccination.

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk setting

For the people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and were vaccinated two or more months ago.

- Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others, may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

CDC has not issued recommendations regarding a second COVID-19 vaccine booster. CDC will continue to evaluate and adapt our response to the COVID-19 pandemic as information becomes available. If you have questions for the CDC, send them to [eocevent417@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent417@cdc.gov)

Please visit our website at [www.nawhc.org](http://www.nawhc.org) and be sure to check in and sign-up at the [NAWHC LinkedIn Group](#) to stay abreast of developments *in NAWHC and in worksite health and wellness*.