



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #6

### STAY INFORMED:

#### MeCDC General Briefing on COVID-19

- Mondays from 1:00-2:00 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/544261659>

#### MeCDC Twice-weekly Coronavirus Update for Hospital Employees:

- Tuesdays from 11:00 - 11:30 AM: <https://zoom.us/j/127279950>
- Fridays from 1:30 - 2:00 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/685349784>

#### NETRC Telehealth Virtual Office Hours

- Tuesdays at 8:00 AM - Call in: +1 646 558 8656 US; Meeting ID: 869 834 403
- Thursdays at 12 PM - Call in: Call in: +1 646 558 8656 US; Meeting ID: 477 247 220

#### MPCA Compendium

- Emailed on Tuesdays

#### Maine CDC Coronavirus Update for Long Term Care Facilities, hosted by Rita Owsiak

- Wednesdays at 1:00 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/570558574>

#### Maine CDC Coronavirus Update for Clinicians hosted by Stephen Sears, MD

- Thursdays at 12:30 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/798526090>

#### MPCA hosts CHC Network Office Hours

- Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:00 PM: <https://mepca.zoom.us/j/394295081>

#### MeCDC COVID-19 and Children

- Fridays from 12:15 - 1:00 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/871527860> +19292056099, 871527860#

### SIGN UP:

Updates related to COVID-19 cases and screening criteria are available in real-time through the [Maine Health Alert Network](#) as well as the [US CDC Health Alert Network](#). Sign up for daily [CDC Updates](#) directly to your inbox .

### MAINE HELPS:

- **Maine Schools** providing [meals to students](#) during extended remote learning (check with your local school for availability during school vacation, 4/20 - 4/24)
- **Good Shepard Food Bank** - [Food Pantry Changes & Information](#)
- **DHHS Office of Family Independence** - [COVID 19 Changes](#)
- **Resources** for how [Mainers Can Help](#)
- **Maine Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)** - A group of local volunteers, connected to a national network, engaging Maine communities to strengthen public health, reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve preparedness response and recovery capabilities. For more information, [click here](#).
- **211** - Community Resource Help



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### How to Order Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for your Health Center

In Maine, emergency management is coordinated regionally by Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) in each of our 16 Counties. County EMAs provide an invaluable link between the almost 500 cities and towns in Maine, and the State. They provide support and leadership in preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation to their local, business and volunteer partners.

Your [County EMA Office](#) is your resource for placing PPE requests, and should also be notified in the event of a power outage so they can work with the state utility providers on your behalf.

### CLINICAL UPDATE

#### Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

- [Asymptomatic and Pre-Symptomatic](#)
- [Medications](#)
- [Laboratory and Radiographic Findings](#)
- [Investigational Therapeutic Options for Patients](#)
- [Clinical Q&A](#)
- [Interim Infection Control Guidance for Evaluating](#)
- [Dental Settings - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance](#)

#### What You Can Do to Protect Yourself

- [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread](#)
- [Prevent Getting Sick](#)
- [Cleaning And Disinfecting Your Home](#)
- [What to Do If You Are Sick](#)

### POLICY UPDATE

#### First payments from \$100 Billion provider fund in CARES are being distributed; second round should be noticeably more beneficial for health centers

On Friday, April 10, HHS announced that they will immediately begin distributing the initial \$30 billion from the \$100 billion Emergency Fund in the CARES Act to assist health care providers (including health centers) with expenses and lost revenue attributable to COVID-19. Amounts from this initial round will be based on each provider's share of 2019 Medicare fee-for-service payments, so we expect these initial payments to health centers to be relatively small. However, HHS has stated that it will soon release a second round of payments targeting providers who "predominantly serve the Medicaid population", and "to reimburse providers for COVID-19 care for uninsured Americans." Therefore,



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### **POLICY UPDATE (CONT'D)**

the second round of funding should be noticeably more beneficial to health centers. The funds are being direct deposited in providers' accounts, named something like "HHS Stimulus Payment".

### **Congress in Negotiations Over Interim Emergency Relief Bill**

Senate Majority Leader McConnell [announced last Tuesday](#) that the Senate plans to approve an additional \$250B in loan funding for the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program. Following this announcement, Minority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi released their [plans to push for an increase](#) in the proposed funds: in addition to the small business aid, Democrats are requesting an additional \$100B in PPE and testing funds for hospitals, health centers and other care providers, as well as \$150B for state and local governments. In order to pass a bill without bringing Members back to DC for an in-person vote, both sides must come to unanimous agreement on a bill that can pass by voice vote. On Thursday, April 9, both the Republican and Democratic bills failed to find unanimous support in the Senate, so talks are ongoing about next steps.

### **Letter to Small Business Administration about Prioritizing Paycheck Protection Program Loans to Health Centers**

NACHC has written to the SBA Administrator regarding [statutory language that requires the SBA to prioritize PPP applications received from health centers](#). The letter highlights the statutory expectation that priority be given to applicants that serve underserved communities, and/or are governed by individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds; it then demonstrates how health centers meet both these requirements.

### **MPCA Begins Weekly Check-ins with Mills Administration**

On April 7, MPCA held the first of a planned series of weekly COVID-19 check-ins with key members of Gov. Mills' staff and DHHS. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss the challenges and concerns of Maine's health center network and to seek commitment from the administration to assist with a variety of vital issues, including but not limited to:

- Immediate availability of PPE;
- Assurance from the Mills Administration and DHHS (State) that it prioritizes the survivability of FQHCs at pre-COVID-19 capacity to handle both the medical surge and the longer run health impacts not only of COVID-19 itself but its socioeconomic side effects on population health; part of this discussion includes exploration of, and (hopefully) commitment to, state aid;
- Impact on morale and decision-making at health centers of the State's messaging about the health care system's response, the State's relationship to the system and the place of FQHCs in that system.

In support of these meetings, and in order to make the strongest possible case for CHC support, we are requesting that you keep the PCA policy team (Darcy, Bryan and Marge) updated on key financial data points, including weekly and/or monthly financial losses, staff layoffs and any site closures. We are working on possible mechanisms for collecting these data. Please be sure to factor in the direct FQHC federal aid that has been/is being dispersed, as well as financial assistance from other programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program. It is important that we have as complete a financial picture of health center status as possible to share with the State on a weekly basis.



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### CHCNET UPDATE

**COVID-19 resources for all-things Health Information Technology, including Telehealth and EHR.** Please send your questions or challenges related to Health Information Technology to Greg Parent: [gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org) and/or Lisa Tuttle: [ltuttle@mepca.org](mailto:ltuttle@mepca.org).

#### **Rapid Telehealth During COVID-19 ECHO - Ongoing Learning Series**

- **Tuesdays** (except for the 3rd Tuesday each month) from 1:00 - 2:00 PM via Zoom.
- For more information or to register as a participant, please email Greg Parent - [gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org).

**HIT/Telehealth Vendor “Speed Dating”** - For CHCs with questions about telehealth, patient engagement/communication, and remote monitoring tools. Please email Greg Parent, [gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org), if you would like to participate in any of these upcoming meetings:

- Wednesday, April 15, 12:00 - 1:00 PM: [Asparia](#)
- Wednesday, April 15, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: [Intellichart](#)
- Friday, April 17, 12:00 - 1:00 PM: [Curago Health](#)
- Friday, April 17, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: [CMAssist](#)

#### **Data Governance Academy – COVID-19 edition - Ongoing Learning Series**

- **Save the dates: May 20, June 24, and July 22 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM.** More Information to follow by email soon.
- For all questions please email Greg Parent - [gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org).

#### **CHCNet partnership with Health Initiatives Consulting (HIC)**

- For support from the HIC team with data mapping, EHR functions, or any other concerns related to your health information technology tools or workflows, contact Greg Parent - [gparent@mepca.org](mailto:gparent@mepca.org),

#### **NACHC EHR User Groups**

- Please visit the [NACHC User Group Information Page](#) to register for monthly meetings, presented by EHR vendors, that address various topics related to maximizing the use of EHRs.

### TELEHEALTH UPDATE

#### **FCC Ready to Vet Applications for \$200M in Virus Telehealth Aid**

The FCC started vetting applicants on Monday (4/13) for the \$200 million in telehealth cash that Congress allocated as part of the recent coronavirus pandemic stimulus legislation. Details are available at the FCC Telehealth [portal](#), including an explainer video to help applicants. The FCC quickly moved to adopt the Covid-19 Telehealth Program order after President Trump signed the relief measure into law, promising the \$200 million will be open to a variety of health care providers to help with broadband connectivity and devices for telehealth services. The commission will consider applicants on a rolling basis and potentially make hundreds of cash awards. It expects to make no individual grant greater than \$1 million.



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### TELEHEALTH UPDATE (CONT'D)

The agency is able to move forward now following White House Office of Management and Budget approval as well as the order's publication in the Federal Register, necessary bureaucratic steps after the commissioners voted to sign off on the program. It provided initial guidance for prospective applicants on Wednesday. Still, some lawmakers say more telehealth support is necessary. Reps. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) and Don Young (R-Alaska) [unveiled legislation](#) on Friday that would increase the subsidy rate of the FCC's Healthcare Connect Fund Program and provide \$2 billion to aid in telehealth and healthcare connectivity efforts.

For updates from insurers and other relevant information concerning Telehealth, please visit the Telehealth Resources page on the MPCA [website](#).

### INTERESTING READS

**Modern Healthcare** - [States with Higher Elderly Population Grapple with Fear, Isolation and Healthcare](#)

**The Atlantic** - [A Rural Health Center with a Pandemic Plan](#) (featuring Eastport Health Care)

### MaineHealth Resiliency ECHO

Resiliency ECHO will focus on sustaining well-being and resilience in trauma-exposed health care teams, through didactic and case-based learning. Experts from MaineHealth, Maine Medical Partners, and Maine Behavioral Healthcare will lead sessions focused on taking care of your emotional health during the coming months to help you sustain your well-being and enable you to better react to urgent needs. Resiliency ECHO is open to all providers and care teams.

**Clinical Lead:** Steve DiGiovanni, MD; **Expert Faculty:** Dory Hacker, LCSW

**Date:** Every Wednesday, starting April 15th, from 12:00 – 12:50 pm; <https://echo.zoom.us/j/156379662>

**If you would like to share your experience or discuss a specific case, please [sign up here!](#)**

For more information, or to **register for CMEs**, please email Eisha Khan: [ekhan@mainehealth.org](mailto:ekhan@mainehealth.org).

### MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

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