COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #8

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

NEW - CMS COVID-19 Office Hours Calls

- **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 - 6:00 PM; Toll Free Attendee Dial In:** 833-614-0820

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.
- **211** - Community Resource Help

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Clinical Update

New USCDC Guidance for Who Should be Tested - Revised April 27 **(NOTE: Maine lab guidelines are unchanged)**

- Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease

Updates for Healthcare Workers:

- Symptoms of Coronavirus (symptoms added)
- Clinical Care Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus
- Information for Clinicians on Investigational Therapeutics for Patients with COVID-19 - (Updated April 25)
- Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19 - (Updated April 23)
- Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness
- People Experiencing Homelessness
- Maintaining Clinical Preventive Services - (MeCDC - April 24)

Updates for the General Public:

- What to Do If You Are Sick
- How to Protect Yourself & Others
- Maine CDC COVID-19 Website

Forecasts and Documents Regarding Re-opening America:

- Guidelines: Opening Up America Again
- COVID-19 Forecasts
- Helping to Get and Keep America Open: Support for States, Tribes, Localities and Territories

Conserving and Extending Respirators for Non-healthcare Sectors

CDC has released interim guidance that offers strategies to conserve, extend, and respond to shortages in the supply of NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) used in non-healthcare worksites, such as manufacturing and construction.

CMS COVID-19 Office Hours Calls (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 – 6:00 PM)

Office Hour Calls provide an opportunity for hospitals, health systems, and providers to ask questions of agency officials regarding CMS's temporary actions that empower local hospitals and healthcare systems to:

- Increase Hospital Capacity – CMS Hospitals Without Walls;
- Rapidly Expand the Healthcare Workforce;
- Put Patients Over Paperwork; and
- Further Promote Telehealth in Medicare

Toll Free Attendee Dial In: 833-614-0820

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MAINE CDC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM (HAN) - Recent Alerts

POLICY UPDATE

Maine Dental Board Releases Guidance on "Remote Care/Teledentistry"

On Thursday, April 23, the Maine Board of Dental Practice released interim guidance regarding the use of remote care/ telendistry to triage and screen patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Attention now turns to MaineCare as they are expected issue clarifying guidance shortly around how these services can/should be billed.

President Signs Bill to Provide Interim COVID-19 Relief

On Friday, April 24, President Trump signed an interim COVID-19 relief bill providing a nearly $500 billion infusion of coronavirus spending, which includes an additional $310 billion for the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, $75 billion in emergency funds for health care providers, and $25 billion in COVID-19 testing support - $600 million of which is reserved for community health centers.

Congressional Delegation Meetings this Week

MPCA is scheduled to meet with Reps. Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden on Wednesday, April 29, to discuss the financial, operational and workforce impact COVID-19 is having on Community Health Centers. As part of these discussions, MPCA will be working to secure a commitment from our delegation to address the urgent need for Medicare payment parity for audio-only telehealth.

Guidance for Waiving Sliding Fee Scale (SFS) Fees

Health centers are permitted - but not currently required - to waive SFS for COVID 19-related evaluation and testing. However, health centers who want to waive these fees should take specific steps to ensure compliance. These steps are outlined here.

BPHC Extends All Progressive Action Conditions by 90 Days

BPHC has published an FAQ stating that due to the pandemic, the "due dates for responses to Progressive Action conditions will be extended an additional 90 days." Additional extensions may be provided as needed. Nonetheless, SAC applicants with outstanding conditions at the time of award will still be limited to a one-year project period. For more information, see the BPHC FAQ page.

Trump Administration Announces New Nursing Homes COVID-19 Transparency Effort

On April 19, under the leadership of President Trump, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced new regulatory requirements that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. In addition, as part of President Trump's **Opening Up America**, CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This information must be reported in accordance with existing privacy regulations and statute. This measure augments long standing requirements for reporting infectious disease to state and local health departments. Finally, CMS will also require nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around the spread of COVID-19.

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Policy Update (cont'd)

CMS Releases Additional Waivers for Long-Term Care Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Intermediate Care Facilities

CMS continues to release waivers for the healthcare community that provide the flexibilities needed to take care of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency. CMS recently provided additional blanket waivers related to caring for patients in Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs), temporary expansion locations of Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), staffing and training modifications in Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the limit for substitute billing arrangements (locum tenens). **Complete guidance:** COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers

CMS Reevaluates Accelerated Payment Program and Suspends Advance Payment Program

On April 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it is reevaluating the amounts that will be paid under its Accelerated Payment Program and suspending its Advance Payment Program to Part B suppliers effective immediately. The agency made this announcement following the successful payment of over $100 billion to healthcare providers and suppliers through these programs and in light of the $175 billion recently appropriated for healthcare provider relief payments. For more information click here.

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 and/or Lisa Tuttle: ltuttle@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,

NACHC EHR User Groups - For more information about the User Groups and to sign up, click here.

- **eClinicalWorks** - Monthly; Every Second Monday at 12:00PM ET
- **NextGen Healthcare** - Monthly; Third Wednesday at 2:00PM ET
- **Greenway Intergy -** Quarterly; Last Thursday (April 30 2020) at 2:00PM ET
- **Centricity -** In-person only
- **athenahealth** - Quarterly; Third Friday at 1:00PM ET

Join MPCA on SLACK! We are building our communication outreach capacity between meetings using the Slack communication platform. Many of you are already connected with us in several peer groups including our **Clinical Channel and our **Billing and Coding Chanel**. Please keep an eye out for an invitation to join us, or feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for assistance with joining.**

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Telehealth Update

Rapid Telehealth Implementation During COVID-19 ECHO - Ongoing Learning Series

- **Tuesdays** (except for the 3rd Tuesday each month) from 1:00 - 2:00 PM via Zoom.
  - May 5th: Pediatric Care & Well Child Checks
  - May 12th: Care Management & Patient Engagement
- For more information or to register as a participant, please email Greg Parent - gparent@mepca.org.

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

Resources for Coping and Stress

Health Center Leaders Encouraging Resilience & Finding Inspiration (NACHC)

Inspired by the powerful words of Dan Miller, MD, Physician and Chief of Residency Training and Behavioral Health Integration at Hudson River HealthCare, in NY, reminding us that *"it's a time for us to lead and act from our hearts and our heads... it's a time for us to maintain rational thought while cleaving still and always to empathy and compassion*," NACHC invited several health center leaders to offer further encouragement and inspiration during these extraordinary times. Community Health Centers are leading with courage and innovation on the frontlines of COVID-19. **They have answered the call!**

In this first video from the series ***Health Center Leaders Encouraging Resilience and Finding Inspiration***, **Kim Schwartz**, Chief Executive Officer at Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center in Ahoskie, NC, reminds us that "we signed up for just such a time as this." Watch Video Now

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Maine FRONT LINE WARM LINE
207-221-8196
866-367-4440
We've got your back.

"FrontLine WarmLine" Launches to Help Maine's Health Care Workers and First Responders Manage Emotional Toll of COVID-19

For more information on these services click here.

Maine Medical Association Zoom Meeting for Providers

Tuesdays | 6:00 PM EST | **Zoom Link:** https://zoom.us/j/111313123

MMA will be hosting virtual discussions every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. The intent is not a clinical discussion but, instead, to simply empathize and commiserate with your fellow physicians during this difficult and trying time for medical providers working under such difficult conditions. We sincerely hope you can join.

Dial-in Instructions:
Dial by your location: 1-646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 111 313 123

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MaineHealth Resiliency ECHO
Wednesdays | 12:00 PM EST | **Zoom Link**: https://echo.zoom.us/j/156379662
In light of COVID-19, through didactic and case-based learning, Resiliency ECHO will focus on sustaining well-being and resilience in trauma-exposed health care teams. 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. If you would like to share your experience or discuss a specific case, please sign up!

Hanley Center Virtual Peer Support (VPS) Sessions
Thursdays | 3-6 pm (drop in for any or all of it!) | **Zoom Link:** https://zoom.us/j/9756185852
NO registration necessary. NO cost. COME AS YOU ARE, frazzled, ragged or clear headed!
Join with other alumni, healthcare colleagues, and Hanley Center faculty to unburden your load, share solutions, best practices, concerns and challenges, and to receive and share support in a safe, collaborative virtual space. This will be unstructured time, to be shaped by those present however they'd like and need, with Hanley Center faculty Derek and/or Sarah providing facilitation as needed. Join us via Zoom, by phone, video, or both -whatever works best for you - every Thursday for the foreseeable future, for whatever moments you can between 3 and 6pm.

Dial-in Instructions:
One tap mobile +16468769923,,9756185852# US (New York)
Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 975 618 5852

Guidance on Coping and Stress

Substance Use Disorder Online Recovery Meetings

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 / TTY 1-800-787-3224

Maine Crisis Hotline : 1-888-568-1112

Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19

MPCA Contact Information:

Christopher Pezzullo, DO	Clinical Director	cpezzullo@mepca.org	(207) 707-4545
Sarah Morrill, RN, BSN	Quality Improvement Program Manager	smorrill@mepca.org	(207) 707-4538
Greg Parent	Information Systems Program Manager	gparent@mepca.org	(207) 707-4537
Sharon Stanley, MBA, CPC	Finance Program Manager	sstanley@mepca.org	(207) 707-1725
Bryan Wyatt, MA	Director of Policy & Communications	bwyatt@mepca.org	(207) 707-4536