



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #18

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

[COVID-19 Testing at HETL](#)

[Serious Adverse Health Events Associated with Methanol-based Hand Sanitizers](#)

USCDC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) - [Recent Alerts](#)

[Serious Adverse Health Events Associated with Methanol-based Hand Sanitizers](#)

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

- [The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus](#) - *The New York Times* (July 5)

Latino and African-American residents of the United States have been three times as likely to become infected as their white neighbors, according to the new data, which provides detailed characteristics of 640,000 infections detected in nearly 1,000 U.S. counties.

- [COVID-19 And America's Racial Violence Are Inextricable](#) - *Health Affairs* (June 26)

How we talk about disparities in COVID-19 reveals what we as a society think are causes and solutions. Rather than personal behavior or genetics, inequities in health are borne of a dogged focus on profit making in the health care system and America's violent system of [racial capitalism](#) and oppression. These now urgently demand our attention.

- [Moving From The Five Whys To Five Hows: Addressing Racial Inequities In COVID-19 Infection And Death](#) - *Health Affairs* (July 2)

In recent months, states and municipalities have begun releasing data on COVID-19 infections and death that reveal profound racial [disparities](#).

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the [Racial Justice/Health Disparities Resources](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).

POLICY UPDATE

Latest Policy Actions in Washington, PPP Extension, and Plans for Next COVID Package

House Leader Nancy Pelosi recently introduced the [Moving Forward Act \(H.R. 2\)](#), a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill which includes funding for health center infrastructure projects totaling \$10 billion over the course of the next five years. The bill passed in the House on July 1, 2020, but there is not currently any expectation of a vote in the Senate. The House also [passed a bill on June 29, 2020](#) to expand ACA protections. The bill, which passed largely on party lines, is also not expected to be picked up by the Senate. Also last week, the House and Senate passed an [extension of the Paycheck Protection Program](#) through August 8, 2020, which the President signed into law on Saturday. Lastly, while [House and Senate leadership continue to discuss the possibility](#) of an additional COVID-19 response bill, it is anticipated that no movement will be made until after the Senate recess at the end of July.



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #18

POLICY UPDATE (CONT'D)

Rep. Golden Introduces Bill to Create Successor to PPP Program, Provide Flexible, Long-Term Relief for Hard-Hit Small Businesses

On July 2, Congressman Jared Golden and Congressman Mike Kelly (PA) introduced the bipartisan *Reviving the Economy Sustainably Towards a Recovery in Twenty-twenty* (RESTART) Act, a bill to provide America's small businesses with the flexible, targeted relief they need to survive a prolonged economic downturn and provide jobs. The RESTART program created by the legislation would target small businesses hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis, offering loans for periods up to one year. Those loans would be partially forgivable for a broad array of expenses, including payroll, mortgage interest, rent and utility payments, PPE, and payments to independent contractors.

FQHCs Unlikely to Qualify for Funding from the PRF Medicaid and CHIP Targeted Allotment Announced in Yesterday's BPHC Weekly Bulletin

The July 1, 2020, version of the BPHC Weekly Bulletin included information about applying for funding from the \$15 billion in PRF funding that has been set aside for the "Medicaid and CHIP Targeted Allotment." Please note that funding from this allotment is only available to FQHCs that have not received any funding from the General Distribution. At this time, NACHC is not aware of any FQHCs that did not receive General Distribution funding, as it was provided to all providers who bill Medicare.

Maine Legislature Anticipated to Reconvene in August

The Legislature adjourned in March leaving many bills in limbo. It is anticipated that they will reconvene in August at the Civic Center, in order to accommodate social distancing. In advance of the convening, several committees have begun holding briefings or work sessions on bills that were left in March. To keep abreast of committees and bills you are following, click on this link to the [Legislative Calendar](#).

INTERESTING READS

- [DNA Inherited From Neanderthals May Increase Risk of Covid-19](#) - *The New York Times* (July 6)
The stretch of six genes seems to increase the risk of severe illness from the coronavirus.
- [A Cheap, Simple Way to Control the Coronavirus](#) - *The New York Times* (July 3)
Simple at-home tests for the coronavirus, some that involve spitting into a small tube of solution, could be the key to expanding testing and impeding the spread of the pandemic.



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TELEHEALTH UPDATE

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

CHCNET UPDATE

CHCNet Data Academy two-part data governance live learning series, presented in partnership with Health Initiatives Consulting:

- **Wednesday, July 22 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM** - [Data Governance Reset, Repositioning and Redesign for Strategic Margin and Mission](#)

For more information including meeting invitations, connection links, phone numbers, and details about learning objectives, please contact Greg Parent: (gparent@mepca.org).

For the latest information concerning the MPCA's HCCN, **Community Health Center Network of Maine (CHCNet)**, or for support with health information technology needs, please visit the [CHCNet Member Portal](#) or contact Greg Parent: gparent@mepca.org and/or Lisa Tuttle: ltuttle@mepca.org.

RESOURCES ADDENDUM

For the **Stay Informed, Sign Up, Maine Helps**, and **Coping and Stress Resources** information, please visit the [Weekly Compendium Resources Addendum](#) page on the MPCA website.

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**** 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 feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for help with joining. ******