



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #19

### CLINICAL UPDATE

- [COVID-19 Questions and Answers: For People Who Use Drugs or Have Substance Use Disorder](#) - USCDC (July 7)
- [Data Visualization - Latest Graphics Associated with COVID-19](#) - USCDC
- [COVID-19 Projections](#) - Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (July 7)

### POLICY UPDATE

#### **\*\*\*Important\*\*\* Request for Supplemental Financial Data for State Advocacy**

MPCA has put out a time-sensitive request for supplemental financial data to support our state advocacy work. Please keep an eye out for that and respond with information by Friday, July 17.

#### **CMS Updates Guidance for RHCs and FQHCs during the Public Health Emergency**

On July 6, CMS released its latest round of updates to the article, [New and Expanded Flexibilities for Rural Health Clinics \(RHCs\) and Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHCs\) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#). CMS updated the article to provide additional guidance on telehealth services that have cost-sharing waived and additional claim examples along with an additional section on the RHC Productivity Standard.

#### **Public Health Emergency Expected to be Extended**

An HHS spokesperson recently announced that the Department intends to extend the current Public Health Emergency (PHE) related to COVID-19. The current PHE is scheduled to expire on July 25; the extension will likely be for an additional 90 days, ending around Oct. 22.

#### **Markup of House FY 2021 Labor HHS Appropriations**

Last week, the House Labor-HHS Subcommittee completed a markup of FY 2021 appropriations legislation. The legislation now includes \$1.65 billion, for the Health Centers Program, an increase of \$25 million from the FY 2020 enacted level. The text also includes \$10 million to support school-based health centers. The markup now goes back to the full committee for consideration.

#### **Washington Watch: The Next COVID-19 Bill Package**

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 reconvenes later this month.

### INTERESTING READS

- [Seeing is Believing: Effectiveness of facemasks](#) - Science News (June 30)  
Using flow visualization, researchers assessed the efficacy of facemasks in obstructing respiratory droplets. Importantly, uncovered coughs were able to travel noticeably farther than the currently recommended 6-foot distancing guideline. Without a mask, droplets traveled more than 8 feet.
- [Pickup truck medicine: saving primary care during Covid-19](#) - STAT News (July 13)  
A well-functioning system for delivering primary care is essential for keeping people healthy. How best to structure and staff that system are topics of ongoing debate.



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### COVID-19 MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

- [Small Maine Providers Are Finding It Impossible To Source Necessary Protective Equipment](#) - *Maine Public* (July 10)

Supplies of personal protective equipment, or PPE, were a major worldwide concern in the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Four months after COVID-19 was first identified in Maine, the situation has improved — but many health care providers say finding PPE is still a struggle, and they worry that if there's a surge of the disease this fall, there won't be enough on hand.

- [Small Maine Health Care Providers Struggle to find Personal Protective Equipment](#) - *News Center Maine* (July 13)

Months into the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, direct care providers in Maine are still struggling to find personal protective equipment to protect themselves and their patients.

- **Today, July 14, at 1:30 PM**, Eastport Health Care's CEO, Ellen Krajewski, will be a guest on Maine Calling with Jennifer Rooks. She will be joining the show at 1:30 pm to talk about the importance of face coverings. [Click here](#) to listen (live and archived).

### RESOURCES

#### **Maine Healthcare Coalition Updates/Resources: Healthcare Preparedness Focus Groups**

The Maine Healthcare Coalition's Focus Groups will resume in July; all are offered virtually on Zoom. These **quarterly** meetings discuss topics that are unique to each group. Attendance is open to any who would like to join the conversations. The meeting information is listed below:

- **Hospitals:** Tuesday July 14, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/91695604724>
- **Emergency Management Agencies:** Wednesday July 22, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/96715642945>
- **Clinical Centers:** Thursday July 23, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/93662481165>
- **Long-Term Care:** Monday July 27, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/94373784250>
- **Public Health Agencies:** Tuesday July 21, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/94326035311>
- **Emergency Medical Services:** Friday July 31, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/95884714576>
- **PPE Workgroup:** Wednesday July 29, 1:00 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/98637706200>

### RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

#### **WEBINAR: Strategies for Addressing Disparate Impacts of COVID 19 - Partnering with Community Health Outreach Workers (CHWs) to Eliminate Barriers to Testing**

Wednesday, July 15 | 7:30 -8:30 AM; <https://zoom.us/j/6218434986?pwd=dEJoNEVRSkVSN2dwZlJ5WEI3WjJsZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 621 843 4986 **Password:** 338847 **One tap mobile:** +13017158592,,6218434986#,,,0#,,338847#

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



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### TELEHEALTH UPDATE

#### Upcoming Teledental Webinar Series

7/23/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Teledental 101: Tips for Engaging and Building Rapport with Patients

Registration: <https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAIf-6gqz8tH9ViovMTHL-7DVYUrK3e9ryP>

8/20/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Hybrid Dental Practice: Creating Opportunities for Weaving Teledental and Traditional Practice

Registration: <https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclceCvpzMjH9yDx0yykeHkST5hPvN1PILM>

9/24/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Virtual Dental Home: Outreaching and Delivering Preventative Care Remotely

Registration: <https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqce2srz0qH9RTol1CgTNKudNKhESyt17>

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

### CHCNET UPDATE

#### Upcoming Webinar - Overview of the HRSA-Approved 2020 UDS Changes

Join MPCA and Health Initiatives Consulting as we review the changes put in place by HRSA that will impact UDS 2020. Please invite any/all health center staff who work on annual UDS reporting - the more the merrier!

- **Wednesday, August 19, 2020 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM** - [Click here](#) to mark your calendar

**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](mailto: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](mailto:gparent@mepca.org) and/or Lisa Tuttle: [ltuttle@mepca.org](mailto:ltuttle@mepca.org).



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### 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.

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

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

### MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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](mailto:it@mepca.org) for help with joining. **\*\***