



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #25

CLINICAL UPDATE

- [COVID-19 Update: FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization to Yale School of Public Health for SalivaDirect, Which Uses a New Method of Saliva Sample Processing](#) - US Food & Drug Administration (August 15)

The FDA issued an emergency use authorization to Yale School of Public Health for its SalivaDirect COVID-19 diagnostic test, which uses a new method of processing saliva samples when testing for COVID-19 infection.

- [Recommendations for Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma](#) - US Food & Drug Administration (August 23)

FDA has issued [guidance](#) to provide recommendations to health care providers and investigators on the administration and study of investigational convalescent plasma collected from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 (COVID-19 convalescent plasma) during the public health emergency.

INTERESTING READS

- [Dr. Scott Gottlieb: Yale's new saliva coronavirus test funded by NBA could be widely rolled out](#) - CNBC (August 17)

Dr. Scott Gottlieb believes Yale University's saliva-based coronavirus test is an important development in the United States pandemic response.

- [Maine Voices: COVID was the first wave – a mental health crisis will be the second](#) - Portland Press Herald (August 21)

We didn't see the COVID-19 crisis coming. But we're well aware of the mental health emergency the pandemic has created.

OFFICE HOURS RESOURCES (FROM AUGUST 20)

- Maine Children's Alliance (MCA) is the home for Maine's part of the national KIDS COUNT data book, sponsored by Annie E. Casey Foundation: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#ME/2/0/char/0>. It is re-issued every 2 years, but the data MCA tracks is constantly updated.
- MCA just released a county-by-county assessment of children's needs: <https://mainechildrensalliance.org/main-county-profiles-2020/>.



Is Your Health Center Hiring?

Click on the icon to the left to utilize the new MPCA Job Board and list your openings on our website!



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POLICY UPDATE

Maine DHHS Announces Nearly \$1 Million Investment in Child Health

On Friday, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced that it will invest nearly \$1 million in existing general funds to increase preventive health care for children enrolled in MaineCare through temporary incentive payments for health providers that offer well child visits, vaccinations, and dental care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with Federal matching payments, Maine will increase support for children's health by an estimated \$3.6 million this fall. Specifically, DHHS will provide additional payments per child per month of \$31 for primary care providers and \$37 for dental providers in MaineCare (Medicaid) to reach out to families and provide comprehensive services, and to support the increased costs of delivering care during the pandemic, including personal protective equipment, physical distancing practices, and staffing. For more information, click [here](#).

Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program

In response to the unprecedented economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and based on the recommendations from Governor Mill's Economic Recovery Committee, the Department of Economic and Community Development has developed the Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program. This program provides grants for businesses and non-profit organizations (*who employ a combined total of 50 or fewer employees and contract employees*) that demonstrate a need for financial relief based on lost revenues or expenses related to the disruption of business operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants will be distributed based on a business/organization's demonstrated losses as a pro-rated percentage of the total losses reported by qualified applicants. Grant applications are due by Sept. 9, 2020. Click [here](#) for eligibility requirements and other important program information.

Mobile Testing Legislation Announced

Reps. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL) and James Clyburn (D-SC) recently introduced the [Mobile Options for Testing in Our Neighborhoods \(MOTION\) Act](#) legislation to support mobile testing efforts in underserved areas through a grant program facilitated by the CDC. For more information on the bill, see a summary of the legislation [here](#).

Provider Relief Fund Updates

Health centers should have received funding totaling at least 2% of their 2018 net patient revenues from the "General Distribution" of the Provider Relief Fund (PRF.) Each health center should verify that they received at least 2% of their 2018 net patient revenues from the two payments made through the General Distribution. This funding was provided via two allotments – the first around April 10 and the second coming any time from late April through June. (This is separate from the \$103,253 provided for each "rural" site under the Rural Allotment.) If the total received from the two General Distribution payments *combined* was less than 2% of 2018 net patient revenues, there is an [opportunity to apply for the missing amount](#).

Furthermore, in an FAQ published on July 30, *HHS announced that all funding received from the Provider Relief Fund must be fully expended by July 31, 2020*. Any funds not fully expended by the date must be returned to HHS. The FAQ is under the heading "Terms and Conditions" on the [FAQ website](#).

COVID-19 and Alternative Settings for School-Based Services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools enrolled with MaineCare may need to deliver services to MaineCare members at temporary service locations ("alternative settings") so that members can safely maintain access to



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POLICY UPDATE (CONT'D)

services. MaineCare has issued [guidance regarding the use of alternative settings](#) to help enrolled providers utilize this option. Alternative settings flexibilities are available for the duration of the federal [Public Health Emergency](#) (PHE); the PHE is set to expire on October 22, 2020, but Secretary of Health and Human Services Azar is able to either extend it past that date or end it early. After the PHE ends, all alternative settings must be enrolled in MaineCare if providers wish to be reimbursed for services provided there. Therefore, if schools envision utilizing an alternative setting beyond the current end of the PHE, we strongly recommend enrolling the site now.

If you need assistance with enrollment or have questions, please [click here](#).

CHCNET UPDATE

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.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

ME DHHS Webinar: Strategies for Addressing Disparate Impacts of COVID 19 - 3rd Wednesdays | 7:30-8:30 AM

Maine DHHS is supporting several efforts aimed at improving health equity and addressing disparities with respect to race and ethnicity, particularly in response to disparities related to COVID 19. As part of that work, Maine DHHS is partnering with colleagues to offer a series of monthly webinars focused on sharing creative solutions and best practices for working with Black, Indigenous and people of color at higher risk of COVID-19 infection.

- Wed, Sept 16: Building Trust With Diverse Communities: Essential Steps for Health Care Providers - Part 1
- Wed, Oct 21: Building Trust With Diverse Communities: Essential Steps for Health Care Providers - Part 2

Join Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID: 621 843 4986 | Password: 338847 *(Same Zoom invite for all webinars)*

<https://zoom.us/j/6218434986>

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



Please click on the calendar for a full listing of upcoming MPCA trainings and events. These events can be viewed by the day, month or as a list.



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TELEHEALTH UPDATE

Part 3 of the Teledental Webinar Series

- 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>

Connected Health Virtual Summit: Delivering Quality Care in the COVID Era - Sept. 14-18 | Times vary

We invite all payers and providers to attend free of charge. This includes employees of major hospitals, physician practices, outpatient centers, ACOs, and skilled nursing facilities; as well as those who work for payers, insurance companies and MCOs. We invite you to listen live, ask questions, and collaborate in our virtual environment.

- [Click here](#) to see sessions and to sign up. If you are currently unemployed or furloughed, please [contact us](#) directly to register.

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

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. ******