



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #27

CLINICAL UPDATE

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

[COVID-19 Testing Updates - September 2020](#)

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

- [Saliva COVID-19 Test as Good as, Perhaps Beats, Nasal Swab: Study](#) - *Medscape (September 3)*
- [A Supercomputer Analyzed Covid-19 — and an Interesting New Theory Has Emerged](#) - *elemental (September 1)*

INTERESTING READS

- [The COVID Cruise Ship and the Maine Fishing Town](#) - *Downeast*
Eastport tried for years to lure mega cruise ships. Then, amid a global pandemic, it got one, along with a skeleton crew of coronavirus exiles.
- [Three States' Efforts to Use Accountable Care to Improve Oral Health Services in Medicaid](#) - *NASHP (August 24)*
Recognizing that improving oral health significantly affects overall health, Medicaid agencies in Colorado, Maine, and Oregon have begun to leverage their primary care-based accountable care programs to improve the delivery of oral health care to adults and children.

OFFICE HOURS RECAP (FROM SEPTEMBER 3)

Deborah Hagler, MD, FAAP, President of the [Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#), was the featured guest at Office Hours last week. She spoke about a number of resources Maine AAP has developed or compiled for providers, educators, and families, including: [Back to School Resources - General Information for Providers](#).

Maine AAP Annual CME Conference - Virtual: September 26th & 27th

[Shining a Light: Hidden Circumstances Affecting the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Families \(Saturday\)](#) & [Navigating School Re-Opening During a Pandemic \(Sunday\)](#)

Click [here](#) to register.



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POLICY UPDATE

CMS Proposes Significant Changes to Remote Patient Monitoring Coverage

The federal government is clarifying how it regulates remote patient monitoring, with changes that could significantly affect – and potentially restrict - how care providers use telehealth and mHealth to care for patients at home.

The changes come from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and were part of CMS' proposed [2021 Physician Fee Schedule](#), released on August 3. The impact of these changes was somewhat lost in the hubbub surrounding the proposed expansion of telehealth coverage and President Trump's Executive Order calling for more telehealth in rural areas.

These proposed changes could alter a connected health platform that's becoming popular with care providers looking to push care out of the hospital, clinic or doctor's office and into the home, where they can continually monitor a patient's care and make care management changes based on real-time information collected from the patient.

Rural Crosswalk for COVID Waivers and Flexibilities

The Trump Administration is issuing an unprecedented array of temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to equip the American healthcare system with maximum flexibility to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a [summary of all current COVID -19-related waivers](#) and flexibilities that affect Rural Health Clinics, **Federally Qualified Health Centers**, Critical Access Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and rural hospitals generally. It also describes the significance of each provision for these rural providers and facilities. Made possible by President Trump's March 13, 2020 emergency declaration and subsequent CMS waiver issuances and emergency rule making, these temporary changes are expected to apply across the entire U.S. healthcare system for the duration of the emergency declaration.

Mnuchin, Pelosi Reach Informal Deal to Avoid Government Shutdown

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) have [informally agreed](#) to pursue a clean, short-term stopgap measure to avert a government shutdown at the end of the month, sources in both parties confirmed Thursday. The continuing resolution (CR) would keep government open past Sept. 30 but not likely to include a new Covid-19 relief bill. It is expected that the duration of the CR would be December - requiring a lame-duck session of the Congress to address another short term CR that would fund government until 2021, thereby avoiding a shut down. The sources familiar with the talks said it's possible any coronavirus relief deal reached this month could still hitch a ride on the CR, but emphasized the items would run on separate tracks.



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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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](#).

2020 Virtual Wisdom Summit hosted by the Maine Council on Aging

Maine Wisdom Summit – Aging Well Through COVID Supporting Resiliency & Growth in the Midst of a Pandemic

The Summit will be held 100% virtually on September 16th and September 23rd, featuring state and national policy leaders as well as some exciting live virtual exhibitors. For a draft agenda, [click here](#).

Register for one session, one day, or the entire summit [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.



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. ******