



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #29

CLINICAL UPDATE

- [Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#) - *USCDC (September 18)*
- [Flu vaccination more important than ever as flu and SARS-CoV-2 co-exist](#) - *AAP (September 8)*
- [USCDC takes down coronavirus airborne transmission guidance](#) - *Reuters (September 21)*
- [Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2020-2021](#) - *AAP (October 4)*

INTERESTING READS

- [Does Wearing Glasses Protect You From Coronavirus?](#) - *The New York Times (September 16)*

After researchers noticed fewer nearsighted patients in a hospital ward in China, they speculated that wearing glasses might offer some protection against Covid-19.
- [Trump Administration Releases COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Strategy](#) - *HHS.gov (September 16)*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) released two documents outlining the Trump Administration's detailed strategy to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses to the American people as quickly and reliably as possible.
- [Six Potential Treatments for COVID-19 Identified](#) - *Medscape (September 4)*

Two brothers who started their careers in different fields are now working together to harness artificial intelligence (AI) to identify drugs that may be repurposed to fight COVID-19 — with some early success.

POLICY UPDATE

Mid-September Countdown for Congressional Action

As Congress approaches the end of the fiscal year on September 30, we are watching for emergency and long-term CHC funding opportunities to be included and prioritized in their agenda. Reports show that some Congressional members are proposing a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government [through mid-December](#). This can potentially include health care extender programs such as the Community Health Center Fund, the National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program. With ongoing debates concerning an additional [fourth coronavirus aid package](#) still making limited progress, the Congressional agenda will likely remain packed until the end of the month.

340B Developments and Updates

- **House member drafting legislation to address 340B concerns:** A Republican House member is drafting legislative language to address three of our biggest challenges with 340B: 1) Stop “pick-pocketing” (aka discriminatory contracting) by PBMs and private insurers; 2) manufacturers must offer 340B discounts up front, as opposed to forcing us to pay full price up front and then apply for a rebate check; and 3) manufacturers must allow 340B-priced drugs to be shipped to all pharmacies with health center (and other CEs) contracts. This is the first time any Member of Congress has drafted legislation to address these issues, so it's an important step. More to come once the bill is introduced.



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POLICY UPDATE (CONT'D)

340B Developments and Updates (cont'd)

- **340B State Impact Document:** Over the past month, MPCA has been collecting data and information from health centers on the importance of the 340B program to health centers and patients. This document will serve as a foundational piece in our advocacy to various state and federal audiences. Thank you to everyone who provided their impact data. We will be finalizing the document this week in advance of our first congressional delegation meeting on Thursday.
- **Meetings with Congressional delegation:** MPCA and member health centers will be meeting with the state's congressional delegation over the next few weeks to advocate for the enactment of a legislative solution to prevent discriminatory contracting under 340B and to preserve the integrity of the contract pharmacy model. While meetings with Sens. King and Collins are still in the works, we will be meeting with Rep. Golden on Thursday, Sept. 24 and Rep. Pingree on Monday, Sept. 28.
- **Media outreach:**
 - MPCA is working to place an op-ed by Darcy Shargo in a state newspaper that is designed to raise awareness of this issue and urge Congress to act.
 - NACHC is requesting that if there are any health centers in Maine who are interested in speaking to the national press on this issue and/or are interested in joining litigation as plaintiffs to email Colleen Meiman (cmeiman@nachc.org) directly with a brief summary of your interest.

CMS Withdraws Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule

Early last week, the Trump administration withdrew its Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule (MFAR), which would have significantly overhauled how states utilize specific Medicaid payments to draw down federal funding and support their Medicaid programs. For more, click [here](#).

CHCNET UPDATE

Visit Volume Impact Dashboard Project: MPCA is continuing the *Visit Volume Impact Dashboard* project to understand how COVID-19 has impacted health centers and how health centers have responded. Please continue to report your monthly data via [this spreadsheet](#) and email it, or any questions, to 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.

COVID-19 OFFICE HOURS RECAP (FROM SEPTEMBER 17)

Androscoggin Home Health and Hospice presented on Community Care Team [Remote Patient Monitoring](#). For more information, please contact [Shane Levasseur](#) or [Michelle Couillard](#).

From September 3 Office Hours:

Deb Hagler, President of AAP, has provided an updated version of the [slides](#) she presented on 9/3/20. Other handouts included: [RXtoVote2020](#) and [Returning to School during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).



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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, 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](#).

Advancing Excellence in Transgender Health: A Course for the Whole Care Team (Virtual)

October 16 - 19, 2020

This conference is designed to train the whole health care team in providing responsive and confident gender-affirming health care, grounded in research evidence and best clinical practices. Sessions are led by expert faculty specialized in transgender-focused research and patient care. The conference is appropriate for all members of health care teams, including physicians, behavioral health care providers, physician assistants, nurses, and other staff. [Register today!](#)

Systemic Racism, Disparities and Health: The Impact of COVID-19 on Latino Health (Virtual)

September 23, 2020 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

This webinar will highlight effective strategies to address the negative impact that systemic racism, the challenges of immigration, language barriers and other factors have on the health and well-being of Latinos. Experts will share actionable, solutions-based approaches that can make a difference at the state and community level. For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

Employer of Choice: Strategies for Retaining Your Best Asset – Your People

Wednesday, Sept. 30 | 9:15 AM – 12:30 PM EST
| [Register](#)

The Rural Health and Primary Care Program is sponsoring a virtual event to be held on September 30, 2020. Michelle Varcho will again be with us and she will be joined by Jennifer Higgins. Recruitment and retention in difficult (like COVID-19) times and through the generations will be the advanced topics of instruction. Click [here](#) for event brochure.

The Maine CDC is hosting a “**Start of the 2020-2021 Influenza Season**” conference call on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 2:00 pm**.

The intent of this call is to provide updates for the season, outline available resources, and remind facilities about requirements for the influenza season.

<https://zoom.us/j/99121132973?pwd=bWIKcUxJQ2R0K3R2SzBTSUE4cVZMUT09>

Meeting ID: 991 2113 2973 | Passcode: 859989



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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!

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>

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](#).



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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****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. ******