



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #31

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS WEEK'S SESSION OF OUR 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our conference continues on October 8th with **Nathan Botts, PhD, MSIS, Senior Study Director - Healthcare Delivery Research & Evaluation HITEQ Center** presenting *Improving Health Center Cyber Security*. For more information and to register, [click here!](#)

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [Case Series of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adults Associated with SARS-CoV-2 Infection — United Kingdom and United States, March–August 2020 \(October 2\)](#)

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare but severe complication of SARS-CoV-2 infection in children and adolescents. Since June 2020, several case reports and series have been published reporting a similar multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults (MIS-A).

- [Large-scale Geographic Seroprevalence Surveys \(October 2\)](#)

CDC is conducting several large-scale geographic seroprevalence studies to learn more about the percentage of people in the United States who have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This involves working with state, local, territorial, academic, and commercial partners to better understand COVID-19 in the United States using serology testing ([antibody testing](#)) for surveillance (“seroprevalence surveys” or “serosurveys”).

NEWS FROM THE USCDC

- [Emergency Warning Signs of COVID-19](#)

If you notice any of these emergency warning signs for COVID-19, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list doesn't include all possible symptoms. Call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

- [Stay Home if You Might Have Been Exposed to COVID-19](#)

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should stay home (quarantine) unless they've already had COVID-19 within the past 3 months. You were in close contact if you were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more, you provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19, you had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them), you shared eating or drinking utensils, or someone sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the U.S. - \(as of October 5\)](#)

In the United States, there have been 7,396,730 confirmed cases of COVID-19 detected through U.S. public health surveillance systems in 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands.



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NEWS FROM THE USCDC (CONT'D)

- [Long-Term Effects of COVID-19](#)

As the pandemic unfolds, CDC is learning more about the many organs besides the lungs that are affected by COVID-19. One of the health effects that CDC is closely working to understand relates to COVID-19 and the heart. Heart conditions associated with COVID-19 include inflammation and damage to the heart muscle itself, known as myocarditis, or inflammation of the covering of the heart, known as pericarditis. The risk of heart damage may not be limited to older and middle-aged adults. For example, young adults with COVID-19, including athletes, can also suffer from myocarditis.

- [What to Remember When Hosting Gatherings This Holiday Season](#)

If you're planning on hosting a gathering over the holidays, remind guests to stay home if they're sick or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days. Host the gathering outdoors, when possible, and make sure indoor spaces are well-ventilated (for example, open a window). Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing among people not in the same household. Wear masks when less than 6 feet apart from people or indoors, and encourage guests to bring their own food.

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

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

[Recent HIV Clusters and Outbreaks Across the United States Among People Who Inject Drugs and Considerations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

NEWS FROM MAINE.GOV

- [Informational Links from the Maine CDC/DHHS/DOE \(October 2\)](#)

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.



POLICY UPDATE

CHCs Can Apply for Additional Funding from the Provider Relief Fund: HHS announced on Oct. 1 that it is making [an additional \\$20 billion in Provider Relief Fund \(PRF\) funding available to "frontline" providers](#) – including those who have already received the full amount they were eligible for under the General Distribution. (This amount was 2% of 2018 net patient revenues.) It is unclear how much any provider will be eligible for; it will likely depend on total requests received. **HHS recommends that providers apply early, starting this week.**



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POLICY UPDATE (CONT'D)

Request for Health Center Declarations for 340B Lawsuit: NACHC is expected to file their lawsuit against HHS/HRSA this week. As part of the litigation strategy that was unveiled on Oct. 2, NACHC is looking for health centers who would be willing to prepare “declarations” to be submitted as part of their case, after the initial complaint is filed. A declaration is a short, written statement describing the clinical or operational harm resulting from the manufacturers’ actions, to demonstrate and support the legal allegations of injury. A copy of the declaration template can be found [here](#). NACHC is requesting that draft copies of health center declarations be submitted to [Colleen Meiman](#) by COB Oct. 9.

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Extend Government Funding: A vote was held in the Senate last Wednesday, passing the [Continuing Resolution \(CR\)](#) the House of Representatives passed on September 22. The bill, passed only hours before the deadline ending the fiscal year, was then sent to the President and signed into law, preventing a government shutdown. The CR provides a stopgap for government funding to extend government-funded programs [until December 11, 2020](#) and includes an extension of mandatory funding for the Community Health Center Fund, the National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program.

Stimulus Deal on the Horizon? Negotiations over a new coronavirus stimulus bill look more hopeful than they have in months. Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin revived bipartisan talks last week and [expressed optimism](#) that an agreement could be reached. White House officials have in recent days privately expressed confidence that they could secure at least the outlines of a deal by the middle of this week. However, significant disagreements remain that cloud the prospects for a deal. Congressional [Democrats have pushed for this stimulus package to cost \\$2.2 trillion](#), while Mnuchin has said the administration is “in the neighborhood” of \$1.5 trillion — a wide gulf of \$700 billion that will be hard to close in a matter of days. The Democrat House package, as passed last week, contains \$7.6 billion in emergency funding for CHCs and \$1 billion for health workforce programs, including the National Health Service Corps and the Nurse Corps.

Nationwide Public Charge Regulation for All Outstanding Green Cards: The Public Charge regulation, finalized last year, makes it highly unlikely that an immigrant will be approved for a Green Card if they have used, or are expected to use, public benefits. Multiple lawsuits have been filed against the regulation, leading to a “litigation roller coaster” of conflicting decisions. As of Friday, September 11, 2020, the Public Charge rule *is* in effect throughout the country (including in NY, VT, and CT, which were previously exempted.) The Public Charge regulations will be applied to all applications submitted on, or after, February 24, 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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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.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

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

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

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. ******