



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #32

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [How COVID-19 Spreads - Airborne Transmission placed back on the CDC COVID-19 site - USCDC](#)
- [First Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Reinfections in US - Medscape \(October 12\)](#)
- [COVID-19 \(2019 novel coronavirus\) resource center for physicians - AMA \(October 12\)](#)
- [AMA announces new CPT codes for multi-virus tests to detect COVID-19 and flu - AMA \(October 7\)](#)
- [Easier-to-Use Coronavirus Saliva Tests Start to Catch On - Kaiser Health News](#)
- [Factors Influencing Risk for COVID-19 Exposure Among Young Adults Aged 18–23 Years — Winnebago County, Wisconsin, March–July 2020 - USCDC \(October 9\)](#)
- [Elastomeric Respirators: Strategies During Conventional and Surge Demand Situations - USCDC \(October 13\)](#)

Nurses on the Front Line... Models for 2020 Flu & COVID-19 Vaccines

Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 1-2 PM, ET | [REGISTER](#)

Has your health center seen an increased demand for flu vaccines compared to last year? Are you hearing increased acceptance from patients/communities that have not been vaccinated in past years? Is your current health center vaccine supply adequate? Is your health center having challenges obtaining additional vaccines?

Join NACHC to hear from health center nursing leaders about three different models of nursing microplanning for flu and COVID-19 vaccination for their health centers and patients.

INTERESTING READS

- [Dying in a Leadership Vacuum - The New England Journal of Medicine \(October 8\)](#)
COVID-19 has created a crisis throughout the world. This crisis has produced a test of leadership. With no good options to combat a novel pathogen, countries were forced to make hard choices about how to respond. Here in the United States, our leaders have failed that test. They have taken a crisis and turned it into a tragedy.
- [Getting Health Care Was Already Tough In Rural Areas. The Pandemic Has Made It Worse - NPR \(October 7\)](#)
Even before the pandemic, the health care systems that serve rural Americans were in decline: rural hospitals were closing their doors, and the medical workforce was shrinking. This year, as the coronavirus outbreak has made its way from major cities to rural America, threats to the rural health care infrastructure have only increased.
- [Excess Deaths From COVID-19 and Other Causes, March-July 2020 - JAMA Network \(October 12\)](#)
Although total US death counts are remarkably consistent from year to year, US deaths increased by 20% during March-July 2020.
- [In Reversal, White House Approves Stricter Guidelines for Vaccine Makers - The New York Times \(October 6\)](#)
The guidelines make it highly unlikely that a coronavirus vaccine will be given emergency authorization by Election Day.



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POLICY UPDATE

Senate Takes October Recess: Senate Majority Leader McConnell has called the Senate to a two-week recess as several members have tested positive for COVID-19. House and Senate Leadership have continued talks with the White House about a fourth COVID-19 stimulus package. While the President announced last week that "he's calling off stimulus negotiations with Democrats 'until after the election,'" other sources claim that talks are still ongoing, and there is still a chance for a small package to pass this month. NACHC is advocating that the next package include \$7.6 Billion for CHCs, including look alikes, and relief for state and local governments, preventing future budget cuts to Medicaid.

\$20 Billion in New Provider Relief Funding (PRF): As mentioned in last week's policy roundup, HHS, through HRSA, is providing an additional \$20 billion in PRF funding to assist frontline workers addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Providers who previously received PRF payments, previously ineligible providers, and an expanded group of behavior health providers are all invited to apply. Application period opened on Oct. 5 and closes on Nov. 6, 2020. **It is recommended that providers apply early.** For more information and/or to apply, click [here](#).

MPCA Completes First Round of Delegation Meetings on 340B: Following meetings with Reps. Pingree and Golden in late September, MPCA and a number of HCs met with Sens. Collins and King last week to urge them to take action to protect this critically important program. As was the case with both House members, Sens. Collins and King each strongly support 340B. Sen. King was especially adamant in his defense of this program, noting that as immediate next steps, he will be sending letters to Justice, HHS and Pharma and working to get others in the Senate to join him in the effort.

HIV/AIDS Clinics Sue HHS Over Drug Manufacturers' Denials of 340B Pricing: The national association of HIV/AIDS clinics and two of its members has filed suit against U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar in federal court, to compel him to protect their rights to buy covered outpatient drugs from four manufacturers that refuse to sell them when ordered through 340B contract pharmacy arrangements. The Oct. 9 suit, brought by Ryan White Clinics for 340B Access (RWC-340B), its Kentucky member Matthew 25 AIDS Services, and its Tennessee member Cempa Community Care, is a major turning point in the months-long assault on 340B. NACHC is expected to follow with its own lawsuit against HHS and HRSA soon.

Public Health Emergency Extended by Secretary Azar: Secretary Alex Azar recently announced that he is renewing the declaration of a Public Health Emergency, effective October 23, 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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TELEHEALTH UPDATE

HITEQ Learning Collaborative - Hybrid Health Center: Building Systems that Sustainably Support both Telehealth and In-Person Care

This HITEQ Learning Collaborative will bring together health centers across the nation in a series of four structured virtual learning sessions in which participants engage with subject matter experts in didactic learning and discussion. Discussion topics will include a framework for telehealth services, application of the telehealth framework to hybrid care and defining a multi-stage approach to offering in-person care, barriers to accessing telehealth or in-person care and strategies to overcome barriers, and determining next steps to enhance hybrid care.

The session schedule is:

- **October 21** Session 1 - Enhancing Your Current Telehealth Operations
- **November 4** Session 2 - Developing a Multi-Stage Approach to Hybrid Care
- **November 18** Session 3 - Understanding Patient Barriers to Care due to the Pandemic and Beyond
- **December 2** Session 4 - Creating a Patient-Centric Approach for Telephonic and In-Person Hybrid Care

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Numbers Don't Lie: Data, Disasters and Racial Disparities | Hosted by the [Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#) Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 2:00 p.m. ET

In this webinar, speakers will share and analyze available data and discuss the connection between racial equity and the impact of disasters on communities of color. They will also provide recommendations for how grant makers and donors can help address root causes, support equitable recovery and mitigate disasters' impacts.

For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

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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DENTAL UPDATE

Board of Dental Practice Meeting

During the Board of Dental Practice meeting on Friday, Oct. 9, it was acknowledged that [LD 2146 "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Board of Dental Practice Related to the Definitions of "Supervision" and "Teledentistry""](#) will not be carried over into the next legislative session but will again be brought forth in the 130th legislature in advance of the board's approval. The board voted and unanimously approved the action.

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.

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.**