



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #33

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

Our conference continues on October 22nd, with **Arabella Perez, LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of New England** presenting *Fostering Resilience: Trauma Informed Care and Self Care*.

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

### CLINICAL UPDATE

- [The Great Invader: How COVID-19 Attacks Every Organ](#) - Medscape (October 16 - updated)

We have underestimated and misunderstood COVID-19 since it first appeared. And as we learn more, it's clear that COVID-19 can be more than just a respiratory disease. It's joined the ranks of other "great imitators" — diseases that can look like almost any condition.

#### **Maine DHHS Transportation Survey for Health Care Providers and Human Service Agencies**

As a health care provider or human service agency that provides services to DHHS beneficiaries who use one or more of these transportation programs, we invite you to participate in a survey.

It will take about 15 minutes to complete and is available [online](#) until November 6, 2020. Survey results will be used to guide improvements to our transportation programs that will help ensure adequate and quality access for DHHS beneficiaries.

#### **Promising Health Center Practices During COVID-19: Summary Document**

The Quality Center is excited to share the [Promising Health Center Practices During COVID-19](#) document. It compiles over six dozen entries NACHC received this summer in response to a Call for Best/Promising Practices Developed or Adapted During COVID-19.

This robust collection of field examples speaks to the breadth and depth of change and transformation carried out by health centers and their partners as they continue serving their communities in the midst of a pandemic response.

### INTERESTING READS

- [Darcy Shargo: Why the 340B drug discount program must survive the pandemic](#) - Sun Journal (October 18)  
Pharmaceutical manufacturers have launched an all-out assault on a vital drug discount program that patients depend on for their medicines, and lives are at stake.
- [Maine Submits Initial COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to U.S. CDC](#) - Maine.gov (October 16)  
The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today submitted to the federal government its [plan](#) for distributing an eventual COVID-19 vaccine, representing the first version of a plan that will be updated and refined in collaboration with health care partners and communities throughout the state.
- [Trick or Treating and Other Halloween Activities](#) - USCDC (October 9)  
Traditional Halloween activities are fun, but some can increase the risk of getting or spreading COVID-19 or influenza. Plan alternate ways to participate in Halloween.



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #33

### INTERESTING READS (CONT'D)

- [A Dose of Optimism, as the Pandemic Rages On](#) - *The New York Times* (October 12)

Experts are saying, with genuine confidence, that the pandemic in the United States will be over far sooner than they expected, possibly by the middle of next year.

### POLICY UPDATE

**Negotiations for a Fourth COVID-19 Package Continue:** There has been a great deal of uncertainty and inconsistency over the last several weeks regarding the development, and passage, of a fourth COVID-19 relief package in Congress. Most recently, word has come from both the [Senate](#) and the [House](#) that a package is likely to be brought to the floor of either chamber in late October, once the Senate is brought back to full session after taking a partial recess in the light of several lawmakers' positive COVID-19 diagnoses. That said, all parties seem to be at odds, and the likelihood of an agreement on a package [before the election](#) appears low.

**Senate to Vote on 'Skinny' COVID-19 Relief Bill and PPP Funds:** In the absence of a bipartisan relief bill, the U.S. Senate will vote on Wednesday on a \$300 billion Senate Republican coronavirus relief bill that is far below the estimated \$2 trillion that Democrats have demanded. The bill, dubbed a "skinny" relief bill for its pared-down funding, was already rejected here by Democrats in September and is again expected to fail. Senate Majority Leader McConnell said in a statement Saturday that the vote would follow a standalone vote on additional Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds on Tuesday.

**NACHC 340B Lawsuit Expected to be Filed This Week:** On Friday, NACHC informed us that they are planning to file its lawsuit about 340B contract pharmacy issues sometime this next week. NACHC also shared that they received over 100 declarations from health centers across the country to use in support of their litigation. We will be sure to keep you updated as new developments unfold.

**AHA asks HHS to Impose Financial Penalties on Drug Manufacturers and Make them Pay 340B Refunds:** Late last week the American Hospital Association (AHA) sent a [letter](#) asking U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar to "immediately direct" drug manufacturers Eli Lilly and Co., AstraZeneca, and Sanofi "to cease charging hospitals and covered entities more than the 340B ceiling price for drugs being dispensed by a contract pharmacy" and "to issue refunds for each overcharge instance." AHA also asked Azar to refer the matter to the HHS Office of Inspector General "for assessment of civil money penalties."



### 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!



## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #33

### Upcoming NACHC Webinar

#### Finance Office Hours for Health Centers: Strategies to Manage Operations During COVID – 19

November 18 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

[FOH Session 2: Fiscal Cliff, Provider Relief Funds and Cares Act Update](#)

(FREE - click title for more information/registration)

### The Healthcare Coalition of Maine - upcoming meetings:

- **Northern Chapter:** November 11, 9:00 am. [Register here](#) (Virtual Meeting Only)
- **Central Chapter:** November 12, 9:00 am. [Register here](#) (Virtual Meeting Only)
- **Southern Chapter:** November 20, 9:00 am. [Join via Zoom](#) (Virtual Meeting Only)

### DENTAL UPDATE

A Board of Dental Practice hearing for the [Proposed Rulemaking Packet for Chapter 7: Establishment of Fees](#) took place on Friday, 10/16/20, but it is still open for written comments until **Monday 10/26/20 at 5:00 p.m.** Contact [Penny Vaillancourt](#) with any comments.

### 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](#).

*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.*





## COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #33

### 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](#).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

### **MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Christopher Pezzullo, DO	Clinical Director	<a href="mailto:cpezzullo@mepca.org">cpezzullo@mepca.org</a>	(207) 707-4545
Sarah Morrill, RN, BSN	Quality Improvement Program Manager	<a href="mailto:smorrill@mepca.org">smorrill@mepca.org</a>	(207) 707-4538
Greg Parent	HCCN Program Manager	<a href="mailto:gparent@mepca.org">gparent@mepca.org</a>	(207) 707-4537
Sharon Stanley, MBA, CPC	Finance Program Manager	<a href="mailto:sstanley@mepca.org">sstanley@mepca.org</a>	(207) 707-1725
Bryan Wyatt, MA	Director of Policy & Communications	<a href="mailto:bw Wyatt@mepca.org">bw Wyatt@mepca.org</a>	(207) 707-4536
Hillary Colcord	BPHC Program Manager	<a href="mailto:hcolcord@mepca.org">hcolcord@mepca.org</a>	(207) 707-4542
Beth Pearce	Oral Health Coordinator	<a href="mailto:bpearce@mepca.org">bpearce@mepca.org</a>	(207) 495-7172

**\*\* 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](mailto:it@mepca.org) for help with joining. **\*\***