



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #36

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes First Test that Detects Neutralizing Antibodies from Recent or Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection - FDA News Release \(November 6\)](#)
- [Potential for False Positive Results with Antigen Tests for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2 - Letter to Clinical Laboratory Staff and Health Care Providers - FDA \(November 3\)](#)
- [Standard Operating Procedure for Investigation of COVID-19 in PreK-12 Schools in Maine - MeCDC \(September 30\)](#)
- [Medical Providers: Assessing for COVID-19 in children with symptoms and NO KNOWN EXPOSURE to COVID-19 \(Updated 10/30/20\) - Maine AAP \(October 30\)](#)
- [Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Test Card Guidance - maine.gov \(October 29\)](#)
- **ME DHHS Info will be holding a session for Interested Users of BinaxNOW Ag Tests on Thursday, November 12 @ 3:00 PM to provide more information on appropriate use and requirements for using BinaxNOW Ag tests. Organizations interested in ordering and using the BinaxNOW Ag tests are encouraged to attend.**
 - <https://zoom.us/j/6218434986?pwd=dEJoNEVRSkVSN2dwZlJ5WEI3WjJsZz09> | Passcode: 338847

INTERESTING READS/LISTENS

- [Can Maine reverse its troubling COVID-19 trend? - The Portland Press Herald \(November 6\)](#)

Experts say yes, but it will take work. Complying with masking requirements, avoiding social gatherings and improving access to rapid testing will be key factors in avoiding an exponential growth in cases.
- **Maine Calling, featuring Dr. Christopher Pezzullo, Clinical Director at MPCA**

Dr. Pezzullo took part in a panel discussion on Maine Public Radio this morning, talking about non-Covid medical care and how the pandemic is affecting those with chronic diseases and other serious health concerns. Click [here](#) to listen.

USCDC UPDATES

- [Celebrating Thanksgiving](#)
- [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)
- [COVID-19 and Animals](#)
- [Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the U.S. \(as of November 9\)](#)

340B UPDATE

There are MaineCare 340B policy changes expected to begin on January 1, 2021. Please watch for an update to the MaineCare policy regarding physician administered drugs under the 340B program. We expect the public notice to be released as early as the end of this week.



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POLICY UPDATE

COVID-19 Package Negotiations Could Start Again this Week

As Members return from the November recess, talks concerning a fourth COVID-19 relief package, FY21 Congressional appropriations, and mandatory funding for health extender programs are all expected to resume as early as this week. Republican and Democratic lawmakers plan to return to the negotiating table for another stimulus package before President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in. A COVID package could prove just as difficult to reach as it did before the election, however, as Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell remain at odds over the size and scope (e.g., state and local government aid, enhanced unemployment insurance and liability protections for businesses) of a bill. It also remains to be seen how the results of the presidential election will shape President Trump's desire to approve a bill during the lame-duck session.

Request for Clarity on Rules for Provider Relief Fund (PRF)

NACHC is developing a letter to HRSA seeking clarification on certain PRF rules, such as whether FQHCs must exhaust their 330 grants before they can bill expenses to the PRF and requesting that they establish a single Point-of-Contact for FQHCs. We will be sure to share the letter once it has been finalized.



Is Your Health Center Hiring?

Click on the Job Board icon to utilize the new MPCA Job Board and list your openings on our website!

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:

- **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](#).



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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](#).

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](#).



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.

MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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 Channel**. Please feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for help with joining. ******