



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #40

CLINICAL UPDATES

- [CDC to shorten COVID-19 quarantine to 10 days, 7 with test](#) - AP (December 1)
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is set to shorten the recommended length of quarantine after exposure to someone who is positive for COVID-19, as the virus rages across the nation.
- [Maine's COVID-19 Vaccine Allotment Not As Dire As Initially Feared](#) - Maine Public (December 4)
- The Maine CDC released more details on Friday about how many doses of both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine the state is expected to receive once they're approved by the FDA.
 - [COVID-19 Provider Enrollment Checklist](#)
 - [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Overcoming Barriers to Equitable and Effective COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Thursday, Dec. 17 | 2:00 pm | [Registration](#)

Many of the vaccine distribution strategies proposed in the U.S. lack a clear focus on - or in some cases, any consideration of - racial health equity and clear coordination among federal, state, tribal and other local levels. Trust, communication and access all pose significant risks to the national vaccination effort. During this webinar, leaders from a range of health equity-focused organizations will present case examples and share recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination plans, partnerships and processes to improve access, build trust, and invest resources for underserved communities.

INTERESTING READS

- **Resources to Navigate Stress and Uncertainty** - USCDC (December 7)
Below are resources that can help parents, guardians, and caregivers navigate stress and uncertainty and build resilience for you and your children during the school year.
 - [CDC Stress and Coping During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [CDC Parent Portal](#)
 - [CDC Children's Mental Health](#)
 - [Bullying Prevention Resources](#)
 - [Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs in Emergencies](#)
- [The In-Person Learning Checklist](#) - USCDC (December 7)
The In-Person Learning Checklist has points to consider including checking your child's temperature each morning and monitoring your child for signs of illness, keeping your child home if they've had close contact to a COVID-19 case, and making sure your child is up-to-date with all recommended vaccines, including for flu.



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INTERESTING READS (CONT'D)

- [The Virtual or At-Home Learning Checklist](#) - USCDC (December 7)
The Virtual or At-Home Learning Checklist addresses setting up for virtual or at-home learning, planning for virtual at-home learning, and mental health and social-emotional wellbeing considerations.
- [Mayo study supports effectiveness of masks and social distancing](#) - King5 (November 28)
Findings show masks are very effective, even at a one-foot distance, and six feet of social distancing is highly effective even without masks

POLICY UPDATE

Lawmakers Eye One-Week Spending Bill

The situation is currently in flux, but as of this writing, lawmakers are tentatively planning to introduce a one-week stopgap spending bill in order to avert a partial U.S. government shutdown after the current temporary funding measure expires on Dec. 11. The bill would keep the government open through Dec. 18, as lawmakers continue work on a \$1.4 trillion full-year spending bill to complete appropriations for the fiscal year that began on Oct. 1. Congressional Republicans and Democrats both aim to attach a COVID-19 relief package to that 12-part omnibus spending bill but have been unable to resolve differences over aid to state and local governments and business liability protections. The House will likely vote on the one-week continuing resolution sometime midweek.

President-elect Biden Announces Top Health Officials to Lead Pandemic Response

On Monday, President-elect Biden announced a slate of top health officials, including former Congressman and current California Attorney General [Xavier Becerra](#) as secretary of Health and Human Services, [Rochelle Walensky](#) as director of the CDC, [Jeff Zients](#) as the COVID-19 coordinator, and [Vivek Murthy](#) as surgeon general. [Marcella Nunez-Smith](#), a professor at Yale who is an expert on health care inequality, will have a senior role focused on health disparities. Dr. [Anthony Fauci](#) will remain in his post and serve as chief medical advisor. For more on Monday's announcements, click [here](#).

Rep. Rosa DeLauro Likely House Appropriations Chair for 117th Congress

Early last week, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) secured the [House Democratic Steering Committee's endorsement](#) to take over as the head of the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives. The support of this very influential committee indicates that DeLauro is on track to assume the position in January 2021, at the beginning of the new Congress. Earlier this year, NACHC listed Rep. DeLauro as one of the recipients of the Distinguished Community Health Champion Award.



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!



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POLICY UPDATE (CONT'D)

CHCs with over \$2M in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans Should Consider a Delay in Applying for Loan Forgiveness

NACHC has prepared [a memo](#) in response to the October 31, 2020 [Form 3510](#) from the Small Business Administration issuing the “Loan Necessity Questionnaire,” which all borrowers who received more than \$2 million in PPP loans must submit as part of their forgiveness application. This form has led to concerns among many, as its definition of “necessity” is different and narrower than the definition in the statute that was in place when borrowers applied for the loans. NACHC and others have submitted comments expressing concerns over these changes. *To reduce the chance of being denied forgiveness, NACHC advises FQHCs whose PPP loans exceeded \$2 million to wait to apply for loan forgiveness until they know if and how the SBA will revise it.* We will be sure to share new developments on this as they unfold.

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFO

The Path Forward: The Digital Transformation in Social Determinants of Health

Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm | [Registration and info](#)

Our last webinar of our Path Forward fall series brings together two of the nation’s leading thought leaders in healthcare. They will discuss the role of community health centers in addressing social determinants of health, including lessons learned from that nation’s first statewide coordinated care network.

Social Determinants of Health: Challenges and Opportunities in Rural America

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 | 1:00 pm | Zoom: <https://und.zoom.us/j/93349146757> (500 person capacity)

Building on work conducted by the Rural and Minority Health Research Center, this presentation will review some of the key elements associated with health across rural White and minority populations, such as education, income, and health facility availability. For more resources and information, [click here](#).

- [How to Identify, Understand, and Unlearn Implicit Bias in Patient Care](#) - *AAFP*
Taking steps to recognize and correct unconscious assumptions toward groups can promote health equity.
- [Disparities in COVID-19 Outcomes: Understanding the Root Causes Is Key to Achieving Equity](#) - *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice (Jan/Feb 2021)*

As the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States increased, and public reporting of demographic characteristics improved, the stark disparities in COVID-19–related incidence and mortality became evident.

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



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DENTAL UPDATE

School-Based Oral Health Care and COVID-19

Thursday, December 10 | 1:00 pm | [Registration and information](#)

The [DentaQuest Partnership](#) and the [Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors](#) (ASTDD) will present a webinar that explores how COVID-19 has significantly impacted school-based health care programs and the ability to provide access to children who have the greatest need for these services.

Participants will receive 1 CE credit.

BILLING & CODING UPDATE

- [Medicare Finalizes COVID-19 Vaccine Payment Amounts](#) - AAPC (November 11)

The government is working at [warp speed](#) to make a COVID-19 vaccine available in the United States. To that end, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published an interim final rule with comment period (IFC) to implement Section 3713 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which established Medicare Part B coverage and payment for COVID-19 vaccine and administration.

UDS UPDATE

The following is an update provided by Ellen Radis, MPCA's 2020 UDS trainer:

COVID-related:

- For those asking where COVID tests are captured, health centers are reporting that information to HRSA weekly [here](#). It looks like 70% of health centers are responding, so for those who want to be sure that HRSA knows all the testing they are doing, they should be sure they are completing that [survey](#). As mentioned, testing alone is not reported on the UDS.
- The BPHC [Coronavirus FAQ](#) page has lots of specific answers to questions about [Coronavirus and UDS](#), as well as [Temporary Sites during COVID-19](#) and more.
- HRSA has also created this [UDS Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Reporting](#) page, which reiterates some of what we have discussed about when testing does and does not rise to the level of a countable visit.

Clinical Measure related:

- Click for a [video](#) showing how to access code sets for the clinical quality measures.

For additional information, check out the [2020 UDS Training Toolkit](#) on our 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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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](#).

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

For updates from insurers and other relevant information concerning Telehealth, please visit the [Telehealth Resources](#) 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 Channel**. Please feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for help with joining.