STAY INFORMED:
General Briefing on COVID-19 - Mondays from 1:00-2:00 PM: https://zoom.us/j/544261659
- Intended for Maine health care providers, governmental and non-governmental public health organizations, hospitals, clinics, health centers, laboratories, professional associations, first responders, health care administrators, emergency managers, and other similar parties

Twice-weekly Coronavirus Update for Hospital Employees:
- Tuesdays from 11:00 - 11:30 AM: https://zoom.us/j/127279950
- Fridays from 1:30 - 2:00 PM: https://zoom.us/j/685349784

MPCA Compendium - Emailed on Tuesdays
The Maine CDC Coronavirus Update for Long Term Care Facilities, hosted by Rita Owsiak - Wednesdays at 1:00 PM: https://zoom.us/j/570558574

Maine CDC Coronavirus Update for Clinicians hosted by Stephen Sears, MD - Thursdays at 12:30 PM: https://zoom.us/j/798526090

MPCA hosts CHC Network Office Hours - Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:00 PM: https://mepca.zoom.us/j/394295081
COVID-19 and Children - Fridays from 12:15 - 1:00 PM: https://zoom.us/j/871527860 +19292056099, 871527860#
- CDC (Dr. Sears); DHHS, (Drs. Belisle and Carmack); MAAP Discussion (Drs. Hagler and Blaisdell) with Child Health Providers.
- Please send questions to Dr. Belisle by 3 pm on the Wed before (amy.belisle@maine.gov)

SUBSCRIBE:
Updates related to COVID-19 cases and screening criteria are available in real-time through the Maine Health Alert Network as well as the US CDC Health Alert Network. FQHC providers and personnel should ensure they are subscribed to these important alerts.

CLINICAL UPDATE
Prioritization of Testing of Individuals in High-risk Categories

2020 PHAVD016 - Thursday, March 19, 2020
To preserve Maine’s specimen collection and testing supplies for patients who may develop severe COVID-19 illness over the coming months, effective immediately, Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) will prioritize testing to high-risk individuals. Individuals who will be tested must be symptomatic (fever or respiratory symptoms) and fall into one of the following high-risk categories:

- Those who are hospitalized
- Health care workers
- First responders (e.g., EMS Police, Fire,)
- Those living in a congregate setting (e.g. LTCFs, group homes, assisted living facilities, jails, shelters)
- Patients older than 60 years
- Patients with underlying medical conditions
**Clinical Update (cont’d)**

Testing within these categories may be prioritized further based on availability of laboratory materials.

Individuals whose symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 but who do not fall into one of these high-risk categories should be evaluated and isolated at home. Testing is not recommended for those individuals with mild fever or respiratory symptoms who are not in a high-risk category because:

1. Presenting for testing potentially exposes the public, healthcare workers, and vulnerable persons to COVID-19.
2. Confirming infection does not change how most illness is managed.

Samples submitted from asymptomatic individuals (as indicated on the submission form) will be rejected.

**Guidance on Discontinuation of Home Isolation**

*Interim Guidance on Discontinuation of Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19.* Discontinuation of home isolation can now be done without additional testing.

**Policy Update**

**Federal**

1. **State 1135 Waiver Memo & Telehealth FAQs (attached):** In response to overwhelming interest from PCAs and health centers on both state 1135 Waiver activity and Medicare/Medicaid telehealth issues, NACHC has prepared the attached documents for your use.

2. **BPHC Publishes NEW FAQs (attached):** BPHC recently published several new FAQs on its website. It addresses distribution of the $100 million in emergency funding, accelerated drawdown of grant funds, walk-up or drive-through testing, support for completing the new BPHC COVID reports, FTCA coverage for volunteer medical professionals and temporary credentialing and privileging.

3. **Senate Passes Families First Coronavirus Response Act:** What Employers Need to Know

**HRSA FAQs:**

**Can health centers accelerate the drawdown of their grant funds as a needed response to the COVID-19 emergency? (Added: 3/19/2020)**

HRSA is aware that many health centers are experiencing budget challenges associated with COVID-19. Health centers may draw grant funding from Payment Management System (PMS) for expenses in alignment with the health center’s financial and operational policies and procedures and the approved grant budget. HRSA is aware that many health centers are experiencing budget challenges associated with COVID-19. Acknowledging that this is an unprecedented time, health centers should consider the pace of their spending to ensure they have sufficient funds to avoid any funding shortfall.

As a reminder, advance payments to a Health Center Program awardee must be limited to the minimum amounts needed and be timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the awardee in carrying out the purpose of the approved program or project (per the Uniform Administrative Requirements at 45 CFR 75.305).
**Policy Update (cont’d)**

**HRSA FAQs (cont’d):**

**When does HRSA anticipate awarding the $100 million in COVID-19 funding provided through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020? (Added: 3/18/2020)**

HRSA is expediting the award process and anticipates awarding COVID funding in March. Pre-award costs will be supported by this funding and may date back to January 20, 2020, per the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-20-11, for costs incurred related to preventing, preparing for, and/or responding to COVID-19. HRSA will provide official guidance on the terms of the award.

**How is HRSA planning to distribute the recent funding provided through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020? (Added: 3/18/2020)**

HRSA plans to make the $100 million in one-time funding provided through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, available to health centers to support evolving needs related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19.

**State**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently approved Governor Mills’ application for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help Maine businesses overcome any temporary loss of revenue due to the novel coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19. Maine is one of the first states in the country to be approved, and Maine small business owners can now begin applying for these loans.

**Miscellaneous Policy Resources**

- **“Noddlepod” site for sharing information:** This is an on-line platform, open to all members of the health center community, to consolidate information on COVID-19 from many different sources and enable members to share info and ideas quickly (e.g., ideas for accessing PPE, developing P&Ps on telework). If you would like to join, please email Susan Hansen at shansen@nachc.org.

- **A Health Center Resources Clearinghouse** has been created to provide a well-curated, tailored set of resources to support COVID-19 response efforts from HRSA’s NCA partners and resources from Federal government agencies. This clearinghouse will also include upcoming COVID-19 events and webinars onto the events calendar. COVID-19 is added to the Quick Finds: Emerging Issues page as a way to direct users to the relevant materials.

**Reimbursement Guidance:**

**Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Response to the Public Health Emergency on the Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Links to Private Insurers Related to Telehealth and/or Co-payments**

- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Humana
- Molina Health
- United Healthcare
- Community Health Options (attached)
Health Coverage Update in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Maine

Consumers for Affordable Health Care and the Maine Primary Care Association would like to invite you to join us for an important and timely health coverage update in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Maine.

Option 1: Register - March 25; 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Option 2: Register - March 26; 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Additional Resources

Consumers for Affordable Health Care Insurance Guidelines
Accessing Assistance Through Maine DHHS

Telehealth Update

- Billing for Telehealth Services - An Introductory Guide on Fee-for-Service (attached)
- CMS Notification Regarding Telehealth (attached)
- NRC Telehealth Toolkit

Medication-Assisted Treatment Resources:

FAQs from SAMHSA
42 CFR Part 2 Guidance:

Dental Resources:

ADA Dental Emergency
ADA COVID-19 FAQS

Telehealth Town Hall for Maine Healthcare Providers

Register - Thursday, March 26; 11:30AM to 12:30 PM

Join Maine DHHS leadership and Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC) staff for an overview of the recent significant expansions to telehealth policy at the state and federal level that will allow Maine providers and patients to better leverage technology and promote continuity of care for their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. NETRC staff will also share key telehealth resources and information that are being made available to help clinicians implement telehealth services, including a new, weekly “Telehealth Virtual Office Hours” that will begin the week of March 30th to provide ongoing and timely technical assistance to clinicians and their staff.

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