COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #4

**Stay Informed:**

MeCDC General Briefing on COVID-19 - Mondays from 1:00-2:00 PM: [https://zoom.us/j/544261659](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

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

NETRC Telehealth Virtual Office Hours
- **Tuesdays** at 8:00 AM - Call in: +1 646 558 8656 US; Meeting ID: 869 834 403
- **Thursdays** at 12 PM - Call in: +1 646 558 8656 US; Meeting ID: 477 247 220

MPCA Compendium - Emailed on Tuesdays

MPCA Rapid Telehealth During COVID-19 ECHO Orientation: Tuesday, March 31 from 1:00 - 2:00 PM; [https://echo.zoom.us/j/969731492](https://echo.zoom.us/j/969731492)
- Ongoing ECHO sessions will be held weekly on Tuesdays (except for the 3rd Tuesday each month) from 1:00 - 2:00 PM via Zoom
- For more information or to register as a participant, please email Greg Parent - gparent@mepca.org

Maine CDC Coronavirus Update for Long Term Care Facilities, hosted by Rita Owsiak - Wednesdays at 1:00 PM: [https://zoom.us/j/570558574](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](https://zoom.us/j/798526090)

MPCA hosts CHC Network Office Hours - Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:00 PM: [https://mepca.zoom.us/j/394295081](https://mepca.zoom.us/j/394295081)

MeCDC COVID-19 and Children - Fridays from 12:15 - 1:00 PM: [https://zoom.us/j/871527860](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](mailto: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.

Maine Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) - A group of local volunteers, connected to a national network, engaging Maine communities to strengthen public health, reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve preparedness response and recovery capabilities. For more information, [click here](#).

**Clinical Update**

Testing Criteria - Updated March 24th
- Priorities for Testing Patients with Suspected COVID_19 Infection (also attached)
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**Clinical Update (cont’d)**

**Priority 1**
Ensure optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of nosocomial infections, and maintain the integrity of the healthcare system

- Hospitalized patients
- Symptomatic healthcare workers

**Priority 2**
Ensure that those who are at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment
  - People of any age with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] >40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk

**Priority 3**
As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high COVID-19 hospitalizations

**Non-Priority**
- Individuals without symptoms

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

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Ordering Update**
All PPE resource requests are now being processed through county EMAs. Per Maine CDC and PHEP, please reach out to your EMA to find out their specific protocol for requesting PPE. All previously submitted requests (sent through MPCA or on your own, using paper form or electronic) remain on file in the queue until they are filled.
Severe Illness Associated with Using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to Prevent and Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Recommendations for Clinicians and Public Health Officials

1. Educate patients on the serious risks of misusing non-pharmaceutical chloroquine products and other aquarium use chemicals.
2. Counsel your patients on the importance of taking medications only as prescribed and as directed by healthcare providers.
3. Contact your local poison center (1-800-222-1222) to report cases and to obtain specific medical management of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine poisoning.

Adverse events related to pharmaceuticals can be reported to the FDA MedWatch program. Adverse events related to non-pharmaceutical products can be reported by emailing FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products or calling 1-888-InfoFDA (1-888-463-6332).

Guidance on Discontinuation of Home isolation and HCP Returning to Work:

Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Interim Guidance)

Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
- At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Pediatric Update

- COVID-19 Clinical Guidance
- MeCDC - Additional guidance on immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic

What’s New from the CDC

- Interim Recommendations for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019

DHHS - Vaccination Updates

- Immunization Reminder Tips During Covid19 Outbreak.
- Routine Vaccination in COVID19 Outbreak
**Policy Update**

**President Signs New Stimulus Bill into Law**

President Trump on Friday signed the $2 trillion coronavirus economic stimulus bill, putting in motion desperately needed financial relief for millions of Americans and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are several provisions in the bill that will provide financial assistance to health centers.

Here are a few highlights:

- **Emergency Funding for Health Centers**: $1.32 billion for FY20 for “supplemental awards under subsection (d) for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 or the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19.”

- **Short-Term Fix for Primary Care Cliff (CHCF, NHSC, THCGME)**: Provides flat funding through November 30, 2020, for all three programs.

- **Telehealth Flexibility for the Duration of the Crisis**: Authorizes Medicare reimbursement for health centers and rural health clinics as distant sites for the duration of the emergency, not reimbursed at PPS rate but instead “such payment methods shall be based on payment rates that are similar to the national average payment rates for comparable telehealth services under the physician fee schedule under section 1848.”

- **Grant Funding to Help Health Care Providers Offset Revenue Loss Due to COVID-19**: Provides $100 billion for a new program to provide grants to health care institutions on the frontlines of the crisis - hospitals, public entities, not-for-profit entities, and Medicare and Medicaid enrolled suppliers and institutional providers - to cover unreimbursed health care related expenses or lost revenues attributable to this public health emergency. Health centers are eligible entities based on this criteria.

- **SBA Loans to Support Small Businesses, including Non-Profits**: Provides a total of $349 billion for loan guarantees through the 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program at the Small Business Administration, which can be used for payroll support (such as employee salaries, paid sick or medical leave), insurance premiums, and mortgage, rent, and utility payments (removes language from an earlier draft that would have effectively prohibited health centers from accessing these loans).

**Health centers are currently eligible for low-interest loans through the Small Business Administration**

Health centers experiencing substantial economic distress as a result of COVID-19 as a result of COVID-19 can apply for the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Low-Interest Federal Disaster Loans. These loans offer up to $2 million in assistance, which can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75% and repayment terms are flexible up to 30 years. At this time, SBA is seeking to approve loans within a week of receiving an application.

**Information on Emergency Leave required under second COVID-19 law**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed into law on March 18, 2020, created two new types of paid leave for workers impacted by COVID-19: Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Emergency Family and Medical Leave. NACHC has prepared an overview and FAQs which can be accessed [here](#). Please note that this information may evolve over time, as regulations are published and additional legislation is enacted.
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Telehealth Update
For updates from insurers and other relevant information concerning Telehealth, please visit the Telehealth Resources page on the MPCA website.

MPCA Rapid Telehealth ECHO During COVID-19
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- For more information or to register as a participant, please email Greg Parent - gparent@mepca.org

Maine Helps
- Resources for how Mainers can Help
- Maine Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) - A group of local volunteers, connected to a national network, engaging Maine communities to strengthen public health, reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve preparedness response and recovery capabilities. For more information, click here.
- 211 - Community Resource Help

Guidance on Coping and Stress
SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224
Maine Crisis Hotline: 1-888-568-1112
Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19

MPCA Contact Information:
- Christopher Pezzullo, DO  Clinical Director  cpezzullo@mepca.org  (207) 707-4545
- Sarah Morrill, RN, BSN  Quality Improvement Program Manager  smorrill@mepca.org  (207) 707-4538
- Greg Parent  Information Systems Program Manager  gparent@mepca.org  (207) 707-4537
- Sharon Stanley  Finance Program Manager  sstanley@mepca.org  (207) 707-1725