COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #7

**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)

**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

**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#

**SIGN UP:**

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. Sign up for daily CDC Updates directly to your inbox.

**MAINE HELPS:**

- **Maine Schools** providing meals to students during extended remote learning (check with your local school for availability during school vacation, 4/20 - 4/24)
- **Good Shepard Food Bank** - Food Pantry Changes & Information
- **DHHS Office of Family Independence** - COVID 19 Changes
- **Resources for how Mainer Can Help**
- **Maine Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)** - 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
**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 keep an eye out for an invitation to join us, or feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for assistance with joining.**

**CLINICAL UPDATE**

Clinical Guidance

- Pregnancy and Breastfeeding
- Information for Pediatric Healthcare Providers - April 17
- Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19
- COVID-19 Forecasts for the United States - April 19
- Guidance For Adult Immunization During COVID-19 Pandemic.pdf - April 15 (MeCDC)

Community Guidance

- Communities, Schools, Workplaces, and Events
- Resources for Businesses and Employers
- Caring for Someone Sick at Home - April 19
- CDC Response Corps to Support State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Departments - April 17
- COVID-19 General Information Overview

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**How to Order Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Your [County EMA Office](mailto:) is your resource for placing PPE requests, and should also be notified in the event of a power outage so they can work with the state utility providers on your behalf.

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**POLICY UPDATE**

**MPCA Meetings with Congressional Delegation:** With Congress not scheduled to return to Washington until early May, we have been using this time to maintain proactive communications with our congressional delegation to discuss the financial, operational and workforce challenges currently facing Maine’s community health center network. We had a productive meeting with Sen. Collins on April 15, securing her commitment to work to fix Medicare payments for telehealth as well as to identify a potential new source for in-state PPE. We are scheduled to meet with Rep. Pingree on April 22, Senator King on April 24 and are in the process of confirming a follow up meeting with Rep. Golden in the coming week.
**POLICY UPDATE (CONT’D)**

Expanded document on financial resources: NACHC has updated and expanded its document outlining financial resources for health centers, PCAs, and HCCNs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document covers HHS grant funds (including 330 funds and the $100 billion fund, the Paycheck Protection Program, Emergency Paid Leave, Main Street Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans, FEMA assistance, unemployment, Federal tax credits and deferrals and advanced Medicare payments.

Insurers must pay full cost of COVID-19 testing, and FQHCs must post their fees on public website: Federal law now requires all health insurers (except short-term plans) to cover all costs associated with COVID-19 testing without imposing any copays or deductibles and regardless of whether the provider is in-network. This requirement covers the test and the visit (whether in-person or via telehealth) that resulted in the order for the test. It will also cover antibody testing, when widely available. As insurers are required to reimburse out-of-network providers for these services, the CARES Act requires providers that order and/or provide testing to post the cash price of these services on their public website. This requirement is addressed in FAQ #7 of the recently-published Administration guidance on these provisions.

NACHC requests HHS to prioritize FQHCs when distributing $100 billion provider fund: On April 15, 2020, NACHC once again wrote to HHS Secretary Azar stressing the urgency of prioritizing FQHCs and other frontline providers who treat medically vulnerable patients when distributing the remaining funds from the $100 billion provider fund created in the CARES Act. NACHC’s latest letter also emphasized the need to consider the numbers of both uninsured and Medicaid patients, as well as the relatively higher levels of need among health center Look-Alikes and those with over 500 staff.

BPHC releases updated PALs on adding temporary sites and telehealth: This week, BPHC released two updated Program Assistance Letters (PALS) on 1) a streamlined process for requesting a change in scope to add temporary service sites in response to emergency events and 2) telehealth.

HRSA’s Grants Management Office (OFAM) FAQs: The OFAM has published a set of FAQs on COVID-19 topics. Highlights include:

- How to request extensions for SAM (Question #3), grant applications (Q.4), project periods (Q.6), NCC Progress reports (Q.7), financial reports (Q.13), and Single Audit Report (Q.16)
- Grant funds may be used to pay for:
  - Salaries for staff on the budget who are not in the office due to closures because of COVID-19 (Q.9)
  - Cancellation fees related to COVID-19 (Q.10)
- Flexibilities around procurement rules (Q.12)

New Resources Available: NACHC has published a blog on Telehealth, Covid, and Health Centers by Susan Sumrell of NACHC State Affairs. The blog provides an overview on telehealth policy changes during this COVID-19 epidemic. Updates include telehealth changes in the CARES Act, CMS’ final rule expanding telehealth and FQHC services, and FCC opportunities.
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**Telehealth Update**

CMS Announces Guidance for FQHCS on CARES Distant Site Provision

FQHC practitioners can provide these services from any location, including one’s home, as long as they are working for the FQHC and can provide any telehealth service that is approved as a distant site service under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. For more specifics on the “how to,” including a list of the eligible codes and the appropriate way to code these services, please see the MLN Matters article.

For updates from insurers and other relevant information concerning Telehealth, please visit the Telehealth Resources page on the MPCA website.

**CHCNet Update**

COVID-19 resources for all-things Health Information Technology, including Telehealth and EHR. Please send your questions or challenges related to Health Information Technology to Greg Parent: gparent@mepca.org and/or Lisa Tuttle: ltuttle@mepca.org.

Rapid Telehealth Implementation During COVID-19 ECHO - Ongoing Learning Series

- 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.

CHCNet partnership with Health Initiatives Consulting (HIC)

- For support from the HIC team with data mapping, EHR functions, or any other concerns related to your health information technology tools or workflows, contact Greg Parent - gparent@mepca.org.

NACHC EHR User Groups - For more information about the User Groups and to sign up, click here.

- eClinicalWorks - Monthly; Every Second Monday at 12:00PM ET
- NextGen Healthcare - Monthly; Third Wednesday at 2:00PM ET
- Greenway Intergy - Quarterly; Last Thursday (April 30 2020) at 2:00PM ET
- Centricity - In-person only
- athenahealth - Quarterly; Third Friday at 1:00PM ET

**Guidance on Coping and Stress**

Substance Use Disorder Online Recovery Meetings
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
WEBINARS FOR COPING AND STRESS

Maine Medical Association Zoom Meeting for Providers
Tuesdays | 6:00 PM EST | Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/111313123

MMA will be hosting virtual discussions every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. beginning April 7. The intent is not a clinical discussion but, instead, to simply empathize and commiserate with your fellow physicians during this difficult and trying time for medical providers working under such difficult conditions. We sincerely hope you can join.

Dial-in Instructions:
Dial by your location: 1-646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 111 313 123

MaineHealth Resiliency ECHO
Wednesdays | 12:00 PM EST | Zoom Link: https://echo.zoom.us/j/156379662

In light of COVID-19, through didactic and case-based learning, Resiliency ECHO will focus on sustaining well-being and resilience in trauma-exposed health care teams. Experts from MaineHealth, Maine Medical Partners, and Maine Behavioral Healthcare will lead sessions focused on taking care of your emotional health during the coming months to help you sustain your well-being and enable you to better react to urgent needs.

Participants will:
- Recognize normal stages of adaptation in large-scale crises
- Identify the negative effects of compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, and burnout
- Learn strategies to manage stress reactions and increase personal and community resiliency
- Learn skills to build team strength in times of crises

Resiliency ECHO is open to all providers and care teams, and offers free CMEs.

If you would like to share your experience or discuss a specific case, please sign up!

Hanley Center Virtual Peer Support (VPS) Sessions
Thursdays | 3-6 pm (drop in for any or all of it!) | Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/9756185852
NO registration necessary. NO cost. COME AS YOU ARE, frazzled, ragged or clear headed!
Join with other alumni, healthcare colleagues, and Hanley Center faculty to unburden your load, share solutions, best practices, concerns and challenges, and to receive and share support in a safe, collaborative virtual space. This will be unstructured time, to be shaped by those present however they’d like and need, with Hanley Center faculty Derek and/or Sarah providing facilitation as needed. Join us via Zoom, by phone, video, or both -whatever works best for you - every Thursday for the foreseeable future, for whatever moments you can between 3 and 6pm.

Dial-in Instructions:
One tap mobile +16468769923,,9756185852# US (New York)
Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 975 618 5852
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