**Clinical Update**

- **F.D.A. Orders Companies to Submit Antibody Test Data** - New York Times
  
  The agency had come under fire from members of Congress and other groups for allowing dozens of wildly inaccurate tests to proliferate without oversight.

- **Interpreting Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2** - JAMA Network
  
  The pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to affect much of the world. Knowledge of diagnostic tests for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is still evolving, and a clear understanding of the nature of the tests and interpretation of their findings is important.

- **Healthcare Personnel and First Responders: How to Cope with Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic** - USCDC

**Dental Update** - (MDA President & ED to join 5/14 MPCA Office Hours)

- **ADA urges CDC to update guidance for dental personnel** - ADA News
  
  The American Dental Association is urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to “quickly provide guidance” on how to safely reopen dental practices during the deceleration phase of the COVID-19 outbreak.

- **OSHA Dental Workers and Employers** - US Department of Labor
  
  On March 16, 2020, the American Dental Association called for dentists to keep their offices closed to all but urgent and emergency procedures during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- **ADHA Interim Guidance on Returning to Work** - American Dental Hygienists Association
  
  In order to protect the dental hygienist, the dental team and patients, the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) continues to support the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in recommending dental facilities postpone elective procedures, surgeries and non-urgent dental visits, and prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures until further notice. However, because many states are working to reopen businesses, ADHA has developed this document to provide interim guidance to dental hygienists on returning to work.

**MPCA Following Board of Dental Practice Meetings - Key Issues**

MPCA has been in attendance at the recent Board of Dental Practice meetings and is closely following the outcome of some key issues impacting dental practices and their ability to return to full practice. Of particular interest are the topics of two letters (linked below) that were shared at the most recent board meeting on 5/8/20:

1. **Concerns of dental providers in regard to teledentistry, safety, staff return/retention, CDC language, and the financial impact to dental practices** - MDA Immediate Past President Dr. Kathryn Horutz
2. **Formation of a reopening task force and guidance that they have created** - MDA President Dr. Brad Rand
**AS MAINE REOPENS - GUIDANCE**

- **A Physician Practice Guide to Reopening** - American Medical Association
  
  As public health experts determine that it is safe to see patients and stay-at-home restrictions are relaxed, physician practices should strategically plan when and how best to reopen. The American Medical Association believes that four signposts must exist before state and local governments relax stay-at-home orders.

- **COVID-19 Medical Practice Reopening Checklist** - MGMA

- **Best Practices for Reopening a Medical Practice** - California Medical Association
  
  As the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the world, California and the United States took steps to limit the transmission and impact of the virus by implementing stay at home orders. While this has so far prevented any surges overwhelming our hospitals, it has also meant that many other parts of the health care system have been idled to preserve resources and capacity in the system and limit opportunity for transmission or exposure of the virus.

- **Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting** - USCDC

- **5 Things to Know About COVID-19 this Week** - The Do
  
  As the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues, new information is coming out constantly. Here are five important developments from the past week.

- **Resource Hub for PPE by Maine Manufacturers** - Maine MEP
  
  Maine manufacturers are developing solutions to address the needs created by COVID-19. We have collected a list of some of these manufacturers - select the Cloth Face Covers and PPE tab.

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**WEBINAR - Growing Challenges of Substance Use, Treatment & Recovery During COVID-19**

**Date and Time:** May 18, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET  
**REGISTRATION**

While opioids continue to dominate headlines about drug overdose deaths in the US, fatal overdoses from cocaine and methamphetamines are also on the rise. People with substance use disorder (SUD) are at particular risk during COVID-19 due to the effects of opioids and stimulants on respiratory health, and social distancing measures have created barriers to treatment.

This webinar will highlight efforts to address the growing rate of substance use in this country and outline strategies to mitigate the increased burden on individuals, society and the health care system in the time of COVID-19. Speakers will discuss:

- Evidence-based treatment for stimulant abuse, including access to cognitive-behavioral therapy to improve outcomes in individuals with addictive disorders
- Emerging efforts to reduce shame and stigma and better direct individuals to appropriate care
- Strategies to increase access to OUD and SUD treatment during COVID-19, including telehealth and virtual recovery support
**Policy Update**

**Mills Administration Announces Testing Expansion**

Governor Janet Mills announced last Thursday that her Administration has secured a major expansion of COVID-19 testing for the State of Maine. The Administration has partnered with Maine-based IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. to purchase enough of the company's recently authorized COVID-19 testing kits to more than triple the State’s testing capacity. This will soon allow anyone in Maine suspected of having COVID-19 to receive a test.

**HHS Awards $4.7 Million to Health Centers in Maine**

HHS, via HRSA, has awarded $4.7 million to Maine health centers to expand COVID-19 testing. This funding is part of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, and is in addition to the $1.42 billion that HRSA has previously awarded to health centers across the country. For more information and resources, visit HRSA’s [Health Center Program COVID-19 FAQs](https://www.hrsa.gov/health-center-program/covid-19-faqs) webpage with additions on testing, the provider relief fund, and contact tracing.

HRSA will host two question and answer (Q&A) sessions to answer health centers’ questions about developing their FY 2020 Expanding Capacity for Coronavirus Testing (ECT) (H8E) activities and budgets.

**ECT Supplemental Funding for Health Centers Q&A Session**

- **Wednesday, May 13**
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
- [Join the webcast the day of the session](https://www.hrsa.gov)
- Call-in: 800-857-9804
- Passcode: 2207925

**ECT Supplemental Funding for Health Centers Q&A Session**

- **Thursday, May 21**
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. ET
- [Join the webcast the day of the session](https://www.hrsa.gov)
- Call-in: 800-857-9804
- Passcode: 2207925

**Response Reporting for H8D Funds Due**

On May 8, 2020, [response reporting](https://www.hrsa.gov) is due for the H8D funds released from the CARES Act. Each health center should provide an activity overview, activities for COVID-19 safety and response, SF-424A Budget Form, a budget narrative, equipment list (if applicable) and minor alteration and renovation information (if applicable). As of Monday May 4, 2020, only 6% of health centers had completed the reporting.

Other links of interest

- NACHC [2-pager](https://www.nachc.org) on the $77 billion “ask” in next relief package
- FY 2020 CARES Supplemental [Funding Guidance](https://www.hrsa.gov): Reporting Requirements for Health Centers
COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #10

Telehealth Update

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.
  - May 26th: Topic TBD (may include Teledentistry & reopening guidance)
- For more information or to register as a participant, please email Greg Parent - gparent@mepca.org.

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.

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; at 2:00PM ET
- Centricity - In-person only
- athenahealth - Quarterly; Third Friday at 1:00PM ET

Recordings of April’s HIT Vendor “Speed Dating” Events are now available. If you weren’t able to join the webinars held on April 15th and April 17th with Asparia, Intellichart, Curago Health, or CMAssist, you can view the recorded presentations and corresponding slide decks on MPCA’s website at either the Events Calendar or the CHCNet Member Portal. If you have questions about Patient Engagement and Telehealth platforms for your health center, please reach out to Greg Parent, gparent@mepca.org.

Interesting Read

- A Shadow Medical Safety Net, Stretched to the Limit In New York City - New York Times
  In New York City and around the country, community health centers — which serve vulnerable, hard-to-reach populations — are being strained like never before.

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

**CMS COVID-19 Office Hours Calls**
- **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from 5:00 - 6:00 PM; Toll Free Attendee Dial In: 833-614-0820

**NETRC Telehealth Virtual Office Hours**
- **Tuesdays** at 8:00 AM - Call in: +1 646 558 8656 US; Meeting ID: 869 834 403
- **Thursdays** at 12:00 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](https://maine.gov/health/) as well as the [US CDC Health Alert Network](https://www.cdc.gov/). Sign up for daily [CDC Updates](https://www.cdc.gov/) directly to your inbox.

**MAINE HELPS:**

- **Maine Schools** providing [meals to students](https://maine.gov/) during extended remote learning
- **Good Shepard Food Bank** - [Food Pantry Changes & Information](https://www.goodshepardsfoodbank.org/)
- **DHHS Office of Family Independence** - [COVID 19 Changes](https://maine.gov/)
- **Resources** for how [Mainers Can Help](https://maine.gov/)
- **Maine Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)** - A group of local volunteers, connected to a national network.
- **211** - Community Resource Help
"FrontLine WarmLine" Launches to Help Maine's Health Care Workers and First Responders Manage Emotional Toll of COVID-19

For more information on these services click here.

Maine Medical Association Zoom Meeting for Providers
Tuesdays | 6:00 - 8:00 PM EST | Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/111313123

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

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!

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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