STAY INFORMED:

MeCDC General Briefing on COVID-19
- Mondays from 1:00-2:00 PM: 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
- Fridays from 1:30 - 2:00 PM: 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

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

MeCDC COVID-19 and Children
- Fridays from 12:15 - 1:00 PM: 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
- Good Shepard Food Bank - Food Pantry Changes & Information
- DHHS Office of Family Independence - COVID 19 Changes
- Resources for how Mainers Can Help
- Maine Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) - A group of local volunteers, connected to a national network.
- 211 - Community Resource Help
Clinical Update

- Ten Clinical Tips on COVID-19 for Healthcare Providers Involved in Patient Care - USCDC
- People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions - USCDC
- Children in NYC Develop Puzzling/Serious Inflammatory Syndrome Possibly Linked to COVID-19 - Washington Post

Dental Update - Maine Board of Dental Practice Issues “Reopening” Guidance

On Thursday, April 30, the Maine Board of Dental Practice was called upon to offer further guidance in the wake of the Governor’s announcement of a multi-stage reopening plan. Included in Stage I, effective today, was permissive of healthcare providers for non-emergency services. The Board’s guidance for dental practice under the Governor’s plan to restart the Maine economy may be summarized as follows:

1. Because the Governor’s restarting plan and the Department’s guidance require dental practitioners to follow United States CDC guidelines, and those guidelines as of April 30 continue to limit services to emergency visits only during the pandemic, dental professionals reopening in May “must limit their services to emergency and urgent care until the US CDC guidelines change.”

2. The Board will consider discipline for unprofessional conduct for dentists who do not limit their practices to “emergency and urgent care” for so long as that is what the US CDC recommends.

3. Consistent with the April 23 guidance, the Board admonishes dentists to continue to be available to their patients for emergency and urgent care or to refer them to their “established network of providers.”

4. During the Board’s discussion of the guidance, the potential for gray areas between urgent care and routine care was recognized, and the Board Chair and others commented that professional judgment was key.

5. Anticipating that CDC guidelines will evolve to allow a return to non-emergency care, the Board strongly recommends that licensees refer to the ADA’s Return To Work Interim Guidance Toolkit.

As the State Reopens - Guidance

- COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS FOR RE-OPENING MAINÉ - Dr. Nirav Shah - MeCDC
- Road Map to Measured Resumption of Healthcare Operations During the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic in Maine - Maine Hospital Association
- COVID-19 Coronavirus Resource Page for Manufacturers - Maine MEP
- OPENING UP AMERICA AGAIN - Recommendations Re-opening Facilities to Provide Non-emergent Non-COVID-19 Healthcare: Phase I - CMS
- Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes - USCDC
- Guidelines for Opening Up America Again - White House
- Reopening Your Practice During COVID-19 Resource Center - The Doctors Company
- Resuming California’s Deferred and Preventive Health Care - CDPH (Recommended by the USCDC)
- Reopening Oregon: The Plan - Oregon Live
**POLICY UPDATE**

“Stay Safer at Home” Executive Order

Following her announcement last week that she would extend Maine’s stay-at-home order, Governor Janet Mills issued a “Stay Safer at Home” Executive Order. The new order continues to have Maine people stay at home with the same established exceptions for permitted activities, such as occasional grocery shopping or exercising. However, it now also allows Maine people to visit businesses or participate in activities deemed safe to open under Stage 1 of the reopening plan. These include barber shops and hair salons, auto dealerships and drive-in stay-in-your-vehicle religious services that follow COVID-19 Prevention Checklists. The Order is effective immediately and extends through May 31, 2020, subject to change. In support of this Order, the Office of MaineCare Services has posted Guidance for Health Care Providers on safely reopening services. This guidance is now available on MaineCare’s COVID-19 webpage. Visit the MaineCare webpage regularly for updates.

CMS Covers Audio Only Services for Medicare Patients

On April 30, CMS announced an interim final rule with COVID related changes. Included in this important rule is allowance for FQHCs and RHCs to provide audio only services to their Medicare patients for the duration of the Public Health Emergency. In addition, they provided additional information on the distant site provision for health centers, including more detail on billing and coding for these services. See the updated MLN Matters here.

FQHCs Strongly Encouraged to Utilize Extended Deadline for National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Applications

On the April 24, 2020, Today with Macrae webinar, Dr. Luis Padilla, Associate Administrator for Health Workforce and Director of the NHSC, provided important updates regarding the NHSC loan repayment program. He reported that applications from health centers for NHSC loan repayment slots were down and the deadline has been extended to May 21, 7:30 PM ET for the following:

- NHSC Loan Repayment Program
- NHSC Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Workforce Loan Repayment Program
- NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program

He also reminded the field that there is no HPSA score requirement for two of the three provider types. You can see guidance here.

HHS Launches COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), launched a new COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal, allowing health care providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 individuals on or after February 4, 2020 to submit claims for reimbursement. Providers can access the portal at COVIDUninsuredClaim.HRSA.gov.
**Policy Update (cont’d)**

**New COVID-19 Workforce Toolkit**

On April 22, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released a [COVID-19 Workforce Toolkit](#) to help state and local healthcare decision makers maximize workforce flexibilities when confronting COVID-19 in their communities. The toolkit contains a number of “Resource Collections” on topics that have been of particular interest to rural providers including scope of practice expansions, licensure, EMS resources, and volunteer workforce needs, among other workforce and training resources.

**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 12th: Care Management & Patient Engagement
  - 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; Last Thursday (April 30 2020) at 2:00PM ET
- **Centricity** - In-person only
- **athenahealth** - Quarterly; Third Friday at 1:00PM ET

**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.**
COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #9

**Resources for Coping and Stress**

"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

**MPCA Contact Information:**

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"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.

**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 / TTY 1-800-787-3224

**Maine Crisis Hotline:** 1-888-568-1112

Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19

For more information on these services click here.