COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #19

CLINICAL UPDATE

- COVID-19 Questions and Answers: For People Who Use Drugs or Have Substance Use Disorder - USCDC (July 7)
- Data Visualization - Latest Graphics Associated with COVID-19 - USCDC
- COVID-19 Projections - Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (July 7)

POLICY UPDATE

***Important*** Request for Supplemental Financial Data for State Advocacy

MPCA has put out a time-sensitive request for supplemental financial data to support our state advocacy work. Please keep an eye out for that and respond with information by Friday, July 17.

CMS Updates Guidance for RHCs and FQHCs during the Public Health Emergency

On July 6, CMS released its latest round of updates to the article, New and Expanded Flexibilities for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). CMS updated the article to provide additional guidance on telehealth services that have cost-sharing waived and additional claim examples along with an additional section on the RHC Productivity Standard.

Public Health Emergency Expected to be Extended

An HHS spokesperson recently announced that the Department intends to extend the current Public Health Emergency (PHE) related to COVID-19. The current PHE is scheduled to expire on July 25; the extension will likely be for an additional 90 days, ending around Oct. 22.

Markup of House FY 2021 Labor HHS Appropriations

Last week, the House Labor-HHS Subcommittee completed a markup of FY 2021 appropriations legislation. The legislation now includes $1.65 billion, for the Health Centers Program, an increase of $25 million from the FY 2020 enacted level. The text also includes $10 million to support school-based health centers. The markup now goes back to the full committee for consideration.

Washington Watch: The Next COVID-19 Bill Package

While House and Senate leadership continue to discuss the possibility of an additional COVID-19 response bill, it is anticipated that no movement will be made until after the Senate reconvenes later this month.

INTERESTING READS

- Seeing is Believing: Effectiveness of facemasks - Science News (June 30)
  Using flow visualization, researchers assessed the efficacy of facemasks in obstructing respiratory droplets. Importantly, uncovered coughs were able to travel noticeably farther than the currently recommended 6-foot distancing guideline. Without a mask, droplets traveled more than 8 feet.

- Pickup truck medicine: saving primary care during Covid-19 - STAT News (July 13)
  A well-functioning system for delivering primary care is essential for keeping people healthy. How best to structure and staff that system are topics of ongoing debate.
COVID-19 MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

- **Small Maine Providers Are Finding It Impossible To Source Necessary Protective Equipment** - *Maine Public* (July 10)
  
  Supplies of personal protective equipment, or PPE, were a major worldwide concern in the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Four months after COVID-19 was first identified in Maine, the situation has improved— but many health care providers say finding PPE is still a struggle, and they worry that if there’s a surge of the disease this fall, there won’t be enough on hand.

- **Small Maine Health Care Providers Struggle to find Personal Protective Equipment** - *News Center Maine* (July 13)
  
  Months into the COVID-19 pandemic, direct care providers in Maine are still struggling to find personal protective equipment to protect themselves and their patients.

- **Today, July 14, at 1:30 PM,** Eastport Health Care’s CEO, Ellen Krajewski, will be a guest on Maine Calling with Jennifer Rooks. She will be joining the show at 1:30 pm to talk about the importance of face coverings. Click here to listen (live and archived).

RESOURCES

Maine Healthcare Coalition Updates/Resources: Healthcare Preparedness Focus Groups

The Maine Healthcare Coalition’s Focus Groups will resume in July; all are offered virtually on Zoom. These quarterly meetings discuss topics that are unique to each group. Attendance is open to any who would like to join the conversations. The meeting information is listed below:

- **Hospitals:** Tuesday July 14, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/91695604724](https://zoom.us/j/91695604724)
- **Emergency Management Agencies:** Wednesday July 22, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/96715642945](https://zoom.us/j/96715642945)
- **Clinical Centers:** Thursday July 23, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/93662481165](https://zoom.us/j/93662481165)
- **Long-Term Care:** Monday July 27, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/9437384250](https://zoom.us/j/9437384250)
- **Public Health Agencies:** Tuesday July 21, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/94326035311](https://zoom.us/j/94326035311)
- **Emergency Medical Services:** Friday July 31, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/95884714576](https://zoom.us/j/95884714576)
- **PPE Workgroup:** Wednesday July 29, 1:00 pm - [https://zoom.us/j/98637706200](https://zoom.us/j/98637706200)

**RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION**

WEBINAR: Strategies for Addressing Disparate Impacts of COVID 19 - Partnering with Community Health Outreach Workers (CHWs) to Eliminate Barriers to Testing

Wednesday, July 15 | 7:30 -8:30 AM; [https://zoom.us/j/6218434986?pwd=dEJoNEVRSkVSN2dwZlJ5WEI3WlJsZz09](https://zoom.us/j/6218434986?pwd=dEJoNEVRSkVSN2dwZlJ5WEI3WlJsZz09)

Meeting ID: 621 843 4986 Password: 338847 One tap mobile: +13017158592,,6218434986#,,,,0#,,338847#

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the [Racial Justice/Health Disparities Resources](https://mepca.org) page on the [MPCA website](https://mepca.org).
COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #19

**Telehealth Update**

Upcoming Teledental Webinar Series

7/23/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Teledental 101: Tips for Engaging and Building Rapport with Patients
Registration: [https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtf-6gqz8tH9VioVMTHL-7DVYUrK3e9ryP](https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtf-6gqz8tH9VioVMTHL-7DVYUrK3e9ryP)

8/20/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Hybrid Dental Practice: Creating Opportunities for Weaving Teledental and Traditional Practice
Registration: [https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclCeCvpzMjH9yDxOyykeHkST5hPvN1PILM](https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclCeCvpzMjH9yDxOyykeHkST5hPvN1PILM)

9/24/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Virtual Dental Home: Outreaching and Delivering Preventative Care Remotely
Registration: [https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqce2srz0qH9RTol1CgTNKudNKhESyt17](https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqce2srz0qH9RTol1CgTNKudNKhESyt17)

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

**CHCNet Update**

Upcoming Webinar - Overview of the HRSA-Approved 2020 UDS Changes

Join MPCA and Health Initiatives Consulting as we review the changes put in place by HRSA that will impact UDS 2020. Please invite any/all health center staff who work on annual UDS reporting - the more the merrier!

- Wednesday, August 19, 2020 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM - [Click here](#) to mark your calendar

CHCNet Data Academy two-part data governance live learning series, presented in partnership with Health Initiatives Consulting:

- Wednesday, July 22 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM - [Data Governance Reset, Repositioning and Redesign for Strategic Margin and Mission](#)

For more information including meeting invitations, connection links, phone numbers, and details about learning objectives, please contact Greg Parent: (gparent@mepca.org).

For the latest information concerning the MPCA’s HCCN, Community Health Center Network of Maine (CHCNet), or for support with health information technology needs, please visit the [CHCNet Member Portal](#) or contact Greg Parent: gparent@mepca.org and/or Lisa Tuttle: ltuttle@mepca.org.
**RESOURCES ADDENDUM**

For the **Stay Informed, Sign Up, Maine Helps**, and **Coping and Stress Resources** information, please visit the **Weekly Compendium Resources Addendum** page on the MPCA website.

**MAINE CDC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM (HAN) - Recent Alerts**

**USCDC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) - Recent Alerts**

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**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.**