**Policy Update**

**Congressional Request for Info on Health Care Workforce Shortages**
Will Woodworth, the Health Legislative Assistance for Congressman Jared Golden will be joining us at an upcoming Office Hours. He is currently working on a report for the Congressman about health care worker shortages and **has asked if Health Centers could provide information to him as background for that report**. More specifically, as HRSA makes decisions about where to focus health care workforce efforts, it is seeking feedback about needs within the realms of family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and physician assistants. **Do Maine CHCs see particular personnel shortages in any of these particular areas?** As is usual in DC, the time frame is short. If you have thoughts to share with Will on this important subject, please email Marge Kilkelly by Friday July 24 and MPCA will forward as a package to Will. Thank you for your attention to this request.

**340B Template for Health Centers to Demonstrate Impact of Contract Pharmacies**
NACHC has developed a [template](#) that health centers can use to create a “one-pager” describing the value of contract pharmacies to their patients and programs. We are asking that you use the template (or other approach) to describe what services and access would be lost if your CHC lost the ability to use contract pharmacies. Please share the results with Bryan Wyatt at the PCA, so that we can develop a working document on this subject.

**Senate expected to begin drafting its COVID 4 Stimulus this week**
The Senate will return from their two-week state work period next week and is expected to begin working on their equivalent of the House-passed HEROES Act, in which Health Centers successfully advocated for 1) $7.6 billion in emergency funding for CHCs and Look-Alikes, and 2) PPP funding to be applied to Health Centers with over 500 employees. NACHC has begun sending its second letter to the Senate advocating for a full $77.3 billion request.

**House FY21 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill Approved**
On July 13, the House Appropriations Committee approved its FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill. The approved budget includes $1.65 billion for health centers, an increase of $25 million from the FY20 budget. The increase consists of $10 million to support school-based health centers. The bill also provides $65 million for health centers to continue addressing efforts to end the HIV epidemic. The [bill now heads to the House floor](#) where it is expected to be taken up in the next couple of weeks. The Senate has not released or marked up any of its FY21 appropriations bills.

**National Governors Association FMAP Letter to Congressional Leadership**
The National Governors Association recently sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader McCarthy advocating an enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the Medicaid program in the next bipartisan COVID-19 relief bill. The letter was signed by dozens of local, state, and federal organizations, including NACHC. They thanked Congress and the Administration for moving quickly to provide a 6.2% FMAP increase in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and urged Congress to provide an additional 5.8% FMAP increase retroactive to January 1, 2020, and for it to remain until September 30, 2021, regardless of unemployment conditions. The letter also urges the Administration to rescind the proposed Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule (MFAR). It would reduce the ability of states and localities to finance the non-federal share of Medicaid and would result in a reduction of federal Medicaid funding.
**INTERESTING READS**


  Public health officials believe that face coverings can substantially slow transmission of the coronavirus, which is spreading rapidly in many states. But face coverings work best if they are adopted widely, and that is not the case everywhere. The accompanying map shows the odds of whether, if you encountered five people in a given area, all of them would be wearing masks.

- **‘How Could the CDC Make That Mistake?’** - *The Atlantic* (May 21)

  The government’s disease-fighting agency is conflating viral and antibody tests, compromising a few crucial metrics that governors depend on to reopen their economies. Pennsylvania, Georgia, Texas, and other states are doing the same.

**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-7DYYUrk3e9ryP](https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtf-6gqz8tH9ViovMTHL-7DYYUrk3e9ryP)

- **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/tJclceCvpzMjH9yDx0yykeHkST5hPvN1PILM](https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclceCvpzMjH9yDx0yykeHkST5hPvN1PILM)

- **9/24/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Virtual Dental Home: Outreaching and Delivering Preventative Care Remotely**
  
  Registration: [https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMcce2srm0qH9RTol1CgTNKudNKhESyt17](https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMcce2srm0qH9RTol1CgTNKudNKhESyt17)

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

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

- **‘I’m scared’** - *The Washington Post* (July 18)

  Black people - many of them immigrants - make up less than 2 percent of Maine’s population but almost a quarter of its coronavirus cases.

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 #20**

**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

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.

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