**Policy Update**

**Congressional Negotiations Ongoing Around Next COVID Stimulus Package**
Following the introduction of Senate Republican leaders fourth stimulus package last week, known as the HEALS Act, negotiations are ongoing between Republican and Democratic leaders and the White House; however, progress toward a final package remains stalled. Senators headed home on Thursday and House members are back in their districts with the understanding that they will be called back to DC for a vote should an agreement be reached.

**Trump Signs Executive Orders after Stimulus Talks Break Down**
On Saturday, President Trump signed several executive orders to address various issues related to the coronavirus pandemic after negotiations with Congressional Democrats over a new stimulus bill fell apart. The executive orders provide additional jobless aid, suspend the collection of payroll taxes, avoid evictions and assist with student-loan payments. The immediate implications of the executive orders are unclear, and the unilateral route may be particularly messy when it comes to extending extra unemployment insurance benefits that expired after July.

**340B Advocacy Toolkit Coming Soon**
NACHC is planning to release a 340B toolkit this week to support PCAs and HCs with advocacy in support of recent developments impacting this program. The toolkit is expected to contain 1) information designed to answer questions about the executive order as well as the Merck, Sanofi, and Eli Lilly actions, 2) a draft press release, and 3) a draft letter to lawmakers. Colleen Meiman will be joining us for our PPC meeting on Wednesday and will update us on the latest developments. In the meantime, a memo from NACHC’s Legal Counsel, Feldesman Tucker, Leifer Fidell, LLP, entitled “Your Rights and Obligation in Response to Merck and Sanofi Demands for 340B Contract Pharmacy Claims Data” can be found here. Among other points, the memo states that “The manufacturers have no right to the data requested, and 340B program covered entities have no obligation” to share the requested data.”

**Public Charge Regulation Halted Nationally**
A federal judge in Manhattan recently granted nationwide preliminary injunctions in two public charge cases. One order put the DHS public charge regulations on hold for the duration of the Coronavirus emergency declaration. The second halted the State Department regulations, 2018 changes to the Foreign Affairs Manual and a presidential proclamation that would have denied admission to many uninsured immigrants who are unable to pay out of pocket for their health care costs. We expect the government to appeal both orders.

**Efforts to Reconcvone Maine Legislature Stall Again**
For the second time in as many months, an effort to reconvene the Maine Legislature for a special session has been thwarted by Republicans who want to limit business to coronavirus-related legislation and to set a strict time limit. Refusal of Republicans to respond to a survey sent out by Senate President Troy Jackson and House Speaker Sara Gideon puts the kibosh on a special session because the Maine Constitution requires the approval of a majority of lawmakers from each party.

**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.
COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #23

NEW FROM THE USCDC

- Interim Considerations for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Correctional and Detention Facilities - August 10
- Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy - August 6
- People Experiencing Homelessness - August 6

INTERESTING READ

- Even Asymptomatic People Carry the Coronavirus in High Amounts - The New York Times (August 6)

Researchers in South Korea found that roughly 30 percent of those infected never develop symptoms yet probably spread the virus.

- At Least 97,000 Children Tested Positive For Coronavirus In Last 2 Weeks Of July - NPR (August 11)

At least 97,000 children tested positive for the coronavirus during the last two weeks of July, according to a new review of state-level data by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association. The increase represents a 40% surge in the nation’s cumulative total of child cases.

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

Connected Health Virtual Summit: Delivering Quality Care in the COVID Era - Sept. 14-18 | Times vary

We invite all payers and providers to attend free of charge. This includes employees of major hospitals, physician practices, outpatient centers, ACOs, and skilled nursing facilities; as well as those who work for payers, insurance companies and MCOs. We invite you to listen live, ask questions, and collaborate in our virtual environment.

Click here to see sessions and to sign up. If you are currently unemployed or furloughed, please contact us directly to register.

Upcoming Teledental Webinar Series

- 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

- 9/24/20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM - Virtual Dental Home: Outreaching and Delivering Preventative Care Remotely
  Registration: https://mepca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqce2szr0qH9RTol1CgTNKudNKhE5yt17

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
COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #23

CHCNet Update (cont’d)

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.

Racial Justice/Health Disparity Resources & Information

ME DHHS Webinar: Strategies for Addressing Disparate Impacts of COVID 19 - 3rd Wednesdays | 7:30-8:30 AM

Maine DHHS is supporting several efforts aimed at improving health equity and addressing disparities with respect to race and ethnicity, particularly in response to disparities related to COVID 19. As part of that work, Maine DHHS is partnering with colleagues to offer a series of monthly webinars focused on sharing creative solutions and best practices for working with Black, Indigenous and people of color at higher risk of COVID-19 infection.

- Wed, Aug 19: A Conversation with Health Care Providers Serving Diverse Communities
- Wed, Sept 16: Building Trust With Diverse Communities: Essential Steps for Health Care Providers - Part 1
- Wed, Oct 21: Building Trust With Diverse Communities: Essential Steps for Health Care Providers - Part 2

Join Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID: 621 843 4986 | Password: 338847 (Same Zoom invite for all webinars)
https://zoom.us/j/6218434986?pwd=dEJoNEVRSkVSN2dwZUJ5WEI3WjJsZz09

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the Racial Justice/Health Disparities Resources page on the MPCA website.

Happy National Health Center Week 2020!

This week, we are celebrating National Health Center Week. To find a Health Center event in your area, please check the MPCA 2020 NHCW page on our website.

MPCA Contact Information:

Christopher Pezzullo, DO  Clinical Director  cpezzullo@mepca.org  (207) 707-4545
Sarah Morrill, RN, BSN  Quality Improvement Program Manager  smorrill@mepca.org  (207) 707-4538
Greg Parent  HCCN Program Manager  gparent@mepca.org  (207) 707-4537
Sharon Stanley, MBA, CPC  Finance Program Manager  sstanley@mepca.org  (207) 707-1725
Bryan Wyatt, MA  Director of Policy & Communications  bwyatt@mepca.org  (207) 707-4536
Hillary Colcord  BPHC Program Manager  hcolcord@mepca.org  (207) 707-4542
Beth Pearce  Oral Health Coordinator  bpearce@mepca.org  (207) 495-7172