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Visit our COVID-19 Page
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Dear Member:

Today's Medical Director/Clinician Call

Maine CDC Update

- 715 COVID-19 cases today
- 30,326 total COVID-19 cases
- 11 reported deaths today
- 449 total deaths

Air Quality and LTC

Recognizing that long term care facilities are facing new challenges related to indoor air and mitigation strategies for COVID-19, today's call featured a mini-presentation by representatives of the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council. They shared tips and ideas for controlling indoor air quality and improving ventilation, which can reduce the number of airborne virus particles by exhausting them outdoors, thus reducing exposure to people indoors. These steps can, in turn, help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

(As a member service, MHCA is offering a free webinar, presented by health engineers from Maine CDC and indoor air quality experts from the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council on January 28, 2021 ~ [Controlling Indoor Air Quality to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission](#) (1-2:00PM). Visit the [MHCA event page](#) for a full program description)

Vaccination Updates

Vaccination in LTC is ongoing, with Maine nursing homes scheduled to complete their first clinics by the end of this month. Assisted living clinic scheduling has been less clear or expeditious. Maine CDC continues outreach and communication with the LTC Pharmacy Partnership Program to ensure vaccines are being administered in accordance with the federal CDC agreement. Call participants shared some concern today around national pharmacy communication and throughput challenges.

A reminder that Maine CDC continues to host twice weekly "COVID-19 Vaccine Info Sessions" at the following times:

Tuesdays at 7:30 - 8AM

Fridays at 12N - 12:30PM

Zoom/web: <https://zoom.us/j/6218434986>

Meeting ID: 621 843 4986

Passcode: 338847

Phone: One tap mobile: +13017158592, 6218434986#, 0#, 338847#

Slides and information from the most recent call, ME DHHS 01/05/2021 Clinician Information Session, can be found here:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines Information for Clinicians \(Core Set\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Additional COVID-19 Vaccines Resources \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines Information for Clinicians 01/05/2021 Zoom video recording](#)

TOMORROW - COVID-19 Vaccine Safety: A Fireside Chat with CMS, CDC, and front line staff and providers

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4pm ET

Register in advance for this webinar (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar):

https://cms.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_VQnfc77zTaOho3-yYrtGUA

Join The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a fireside chat on vaccine safety. This is the third discussion in a special series, a part of the CMS National Nursing Home Stakeholder Call Series, aimed at addressing staff questions and concerns about the new COVID-19 vaccines. Each session will be moderated by CMS

with speakers from CDC and representatives of front line staff and providers.

This chat will continue to address myths surrounding vaccine danger with the following panelist:

- Dr. Lee Fleisher, CMS Chief Medical Officer and Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CMS)
- Dr. Amanda Cohn, Chief Medical Officer (Acting), Office of Vaccine Policy, Preparedness, and Global Health, Office of the Director (CDC)
- Roberta Jaramillo, Environmental Services District Manager, HealthCare Services Group

HHS Extends Public Health Emergency

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar has extended the [public health emergency](#) (PHE) due to COVID-19 effective January 21. The PHE is issued in 90-day increments and is slated to expire in April 2021. The PHE extension means:

- [Section 1135 National, Blanket Waiver](#) remains in place. This waiver includes the telehealth and staffing waivers.
- [Section 1812\(f\) Waiver](#) also remains in place. This covers the waiver of the 3-Day Stay requirement and the waiver of the Spell of Illness.
- Because of the CARES Act statutory link to the PHE, the Medicaid increased FMAP continues until the end of the quarter in which the PHE ends. Therefore, the increased FMAP will flow to the states until June 2021. More information is available [here](#).

Governor Janet Mills [extended the State of Civil Emergency \(PDF\)](#) through January 20, 2021. The Administration will revisit the issue next week.

Co-Administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently updated its [guidance](#) to clarify that long term care facility residents or health care personnel may get the COVID-19 vaccine administered within 14 days of another vaccination. For these individuals, the potential benefits of the vaccination are deemed to outweigh the potential unknown risks of co-administration with another vaccine (e.g. influenza, etc.).

US CDC Issues New Vaccination Social Media Messages

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [has posted](#) a new set of pre-written social media messages that can be used by long-term care providers to educate staff members and residents about COVID-19 vaccine safety and benefits.

Information is available for use on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and the messages answer questions in three categories: vaccine benefits, vaccine safety and what to expect after vaccination. The agency also offers digital graphic art that's tailored to each platform.

OSHA Required 2020 Injury and Illness Data Due March 2

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminds employers the agency is collecting calendar year 2020 Form 300A data due by March 2, 2021. Per OSHA, employers have an obligation to report and record work-related COVID-19 cases. Additional information on OSHA's guidance for recording and reporting COVID-19 cases can be found in this [AHCA/NCAL OSHA resource](#).

OSHA electronic submissions are required of establishments with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records and establishments with 20-249 employees classified in specific industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries or illnesses. Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, and IDD providers are all included in this per [OSHA](#). Visit the [Injury Tracking Application Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records](#) to OSHA for more information.

HHS ASPR Launches Therapeutics Distribution Locations Interactive Map

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) has announced the launch of the HHS Protect Public Data Hub displaying the locations that have received shipments of the COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapeutics under the EUA authority.

The mAb therapeutic treatments have shipped nationwide. However, the shipment locations displayed on the [therapeutics distribution locations interactive map](#) include the states that have opted to have their locations displayed on the public website.

Supply of mAbs is not an issue, but rather there is an underutilization of the therapeutics. HHS ASPR has created a [frequently asked questions](#) webpage to help long term care facilities (LTCFs) navigate the process of getting the therapeutics into centers and to the vulnerable populations they serve. ASCP and AMDA have produced a [readiness document](#) for pharmacies and LTCFs.

Sincerely,

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