

COVID-19 Resource Guide for DCPCA Member Health Centers – Updated 5/4/2020 (at 8 p.m.)

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Confirmed Case Updates/Surveillance Data

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- **United States:**
 - [CDC's U.S. Aggregate Surveillance Data](#)
 - [NY Times Surveillance Data](#)
- **World:** [COVID-19 Cases Dashboard by Johns Hopkins](#)

Upcoming Meetings

- **“The PPP Loan Tsunami & Potential Liability” by Epstein, Becker, Greene**
 - **Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020
 - **Time:** 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** [Register Here](#)
- **“Telehealth before and after COVID-19” by the Brookings Institution**
 - **Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020

- **Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. (ET)
- **Dial-in:** [Register Here](#)
- **“COVID-19 Testing” by Health Choice Network and AllianceChicago**
 - **Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020
 - **Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** [Register Here](#)
- **National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Flattening the COVID-19 Curve: Latest Update**
 - **Date:** Thursday, May 7, 2020
 - **Time:** 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** [Click here.](#)
- **DCPCA Clinical Directors + Emergency Preparedness Task Force Peer Group**
Every other Friday
 - **Date:** Friday, May 8, 2020
 - **Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (ET)
 - Email Megan Loucks at mloucks@dcPCA.org to receive the invitation.
- **DC HMC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situational Teleconference** **Weekly, Monday**
 - **Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020
 - **Time:** 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** Phone: 650-479-3208; Access Code: 737160450
- **“Implementing Teledentistry” by NNHOHA.** Attendees will learn from a subject matter expert and three health centers on effective implementation strategies for teledentistry.
 - **Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020
 - **Time:** 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** [Register Here](#)
- **NACHC COVID-19 Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Office Hours.** Priority topics include telehealth, provider coverage, volunteer providers, particularized determination and deeming applications. Pre-submit questions to Katja Laepke at klaepke@nachc.org.
 - **Date:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020
 - **Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** [Register Now](#)
- **“How to Lead Through COVID-19 Crisis in a Resilience-oriented Trauma-informed Way” by the Region V Public Health Training Center and the National Council for Behavioral Health.** This workshop identifies leadership strategies you can adapt to minimize the impact of anxiety on staff and techniques to promote resiliency and self-care in a trauma-informed way.
 - **Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020
 - **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (ET)
 - **Dial-in:** [Register Here](#)

District Updates

District Health Centers in the News

- [Maria Gomez: We can create a stabilization supply-chain to feed, clothe and shelter the forgotten ones.](#) Hear from Maria Gomez, president and CEO of **Mary's Center**, and Bibi Hidalgo, co-founder of Future Partners LLC about the vision for community health centers partnering with business executives and philanthropies to stem this crisis and help rebuild the country.
- [Four more inmates test positive for COVID-19, D.C. Dept. of Corrections confirms](#) "According to the D.C. Dept of Corrections, a total of 48 inmates who tested positive for the coronavirus are in isolation and 86 inmates who recovered have returned to the jail's general population. Officials say the D.C. Dept. of Corrections medical staff and **Unity Healthcare** is working with DC Health on contact tracing and protecting the health of everyone in the jail facilities."
- [George A. Jones: Black Americans are dying of COVID-19 at disproportionate rates. That does not need to be the case in DC.](#) "We can't ignore the economic disparities we face in DC every day. And now, we can no longer ignore that these disparities include access to health care. Let me be clear: A meaningful response to this crisis needs to take race into consideration — not because the virus discriminates on the basis of race, but because people and systems do. Response from federal, state, and local programs must address racial injustices at all levels of society," stated **Bread for the City** CEO George A. Jones. Bread for the City has signed on with sister agencies across DC "to support the creation of an 'excluded workers fund' like the one launched this week in Montgomery County. Federal and local lawmakers alike have excluded some residents from relief support, including those who are undocumented or are part of an informal cash economy."
- [Howard Advances Major Healthcare Vision Through Partnership with DC Mayor's Office.](#) "Modern facilities will enable clinical research on conditions afflicting the District's most vulnerable populations and strengthen Howard's on-going efforts to reach underserved communities. It will complement Howard's existing community health care programs and facilities, such as the new ambulatory care center, Howard's Medical Faculty Practice which recently opened on Benning Road in partnership with **Unity Health Care**."
- [Bowser names LGBTQ members to ReOpen DC Advisory Group](#) "Bowser named gay former D.C. Council member David Catania as Community Co-Chairperson of the Human Services, Social Services, and Health Subcommittee. The mayor also appointed to that subcommittee gay D.C. physician Jim D'Orta and longtime LGBTQ community ally Don Blanchon, who serves as an official with D.C.'s **Whitman-Walker Health**."
- [LGBTQ Groups Seek Safeguards Against COVID-19 Discrimination](#) D.C.'s **Whitman-Walker Health** is part of a coalition of six national and local LGBTQ organizations that initiated and coordinated the joint letter that "reiterates earlier requests by LGBTQ health advocates for the collection of data on the sexual orientation and gender identity of

patients testing positive and being treated for coronavirus illness along with data already being collected on race, ethnicity, age, sex, and disability.”

District Mayoral Briefings

- **District announces plans for new hospital.** Mayor Muriel Bowser announced two monumental agreements to improve health care for District residents. The agreements include the construction of two new hospitals. See [Mayor Bowser’s press release](#) and the [DC Health presentation on April 30: "Building a Healthier, More Equitable DC"](#).
- [District’s Mayoral Briefing \(Coronavirus Situational Update\) from May 4](#). Snapshot:

ReOpen DC Metrics

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Metric	Phased Reopening	Where we are today
Sustained decrease in community spread for 14 days	14 days of decline	0 days
Health care capacity without surge	79% capacity, sustained for 7 days	78% acute capacity
Testing capacity for 1) symptomatic, 2) essential roles, and 3) close contacts	Ability to test all three groups	Ability to test all three groups
Contact tracing capacity for all new cases and their close contacts	Contact tracing all new cases and their close contacts within 1 day	Currently contact tracing priority populations and their close contacts

ReOpenDC

- **Check out DC [ReOpen DC](#)**, a new page on <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>. ReOpen DC is about working together as a community to reopen Washington, DC in a way that is safe and sustainable.
- **Take the ReOpen DC Survey to have YOUR Voice heard in the process:** <https://dcgov.seamlessdocs.com/f/ReOpenDC>
- **For understanding the District’s strategy**, note that the District plans refer to alignment to the [Johns Hopkins’ Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors](#).

DC Health

- New resources on <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> include [Public resources](#) on COVID-19, testing, taking temperatures and staying safe.

- **A reminder that [testing appointments must be scheduled through the Testing Triage Call Center by calling 1\(855\) 363-0333](#).** Health care workers who are interested in getting themselves tested as well are encouraged to call this line. The line is open 8:30 – 4:30. Upon dialing, please select the option for healthcare worker
- **DC Health has posted several temporary positions to assist in COVID-19 activities as part of the [DC Health Contact Trace Force](#).** DC Health asks that individuals forward the links below, especially to those who have been furloughed or laid off as a result of the current pandemic (such as patient navigators and clinical staff):
 - [Lead Investigator CS – 12](#)
 - [Investigator CS – 09](#)
 - [Program Manager MS – 14](#)
 - [Program Manager MS-15](#)

Telehealth Updates

- The [eHealthDC website](#) is regularly updated with resources tailored to providers that serve Medicaid beneficiaries, including telehealth-related policies from the District and federal government, guides for providers and patients, and workflows to support Meaningful Use objectives. Resources include privacy and security guidance as well as eCW telehealth set-up steps, workflows, and other guides. For questions or technical assistance, e-mail contact@e-healthdc.org. Recent additions to the [eHealthDC telehealth webpage](#) include the following new resources:
 - **New eCW TeleVisit Text/ SMS and Email Features:** eCW has released enhancements to their TeleVisit platform that allow you to use text/SMS and email features to inform your patients about scheduling telehealth appointments. Please refer to our [eCW resources](#) for guidance on how to configure [text reminders](#) and [email reminders](#) within the eCW EHR. Please contact [Jim Costello](#) if you need assistance in activating these new telehealth tools.
 - **Responses to your questions on telehealth**, including [Privacy and Security concerns](#), [and general Telehealth tools questions](#).
 - **Access to eCW Telehealth webinars** to [view step-by-step video tutorials on how to use Healow for telehealth](#).
- **On April 30, [CMS Announces Audio-Only Flexibilities to FQHCs and RHCs and Updated Distant Site Billing Guidance for Medicare](#).**
 - As mandated by the CARES Act, CMS is paying for Medicare telehealth services provided by FQHCs and RHCs. Previously, these clinics could not be paid to provide telehealth expertise as “distant sites.” Now, Medicare beneficiaries located medically underserved areas will have more options to access care from their home. Since some Medicare beneficiaries don’t have access to interactive audio-video technology that is required for Medicare telehealth services, or choose not to use it even if offered by their practitioner, *CMS is waiving the video*

requirement for certain telephone evaluation and management services, and adding them to the list of Medicare telehealth services. These changes may present additional opportunities for FQHC telehealth billing, so please forward this information to your Billing/Revenue Cycle Manager.

- Refer to [MLN Matters SE20011](#) and [MLN Matters SE20016](#) (updated April 30) for detailed information on these updates.
- **Additionally, please see the below clarifying information from CMS on FQHC coding and billing for Medicare.** Thanks to our DCPCA partner, Shellie Sulzberger of [Coding and Compliance Initiatives](#), for this summary:
 - *Telehealth distant site until June 30:*
 - PPS Payment specific code G046X
 - CPT code that describes the service (for example 99213) – modifier 95
 - G2025 – modifier 95
 - Example: G0467; 99213-95; G2025-95
 - *Telehealth distant site starting July 1:* G2025 – with or without modifier 95.
 - *Audio/telephone visits effective March 1:* G2025 can be billed only IF the provider has at least 5 minutes of telephone E/M work and the patient has not been seen within the 7 days prior (E/M service) and does not lead to a visit within the next 24 hours or soonest available.
 - *Virtual Visits and online digital evaluation:* The following codes are still billed if all criteria is met. These codes are NOT replaced by G2025: G0071 and 99421-99423.
- [NACHC released Reimbursement Tips](#) (see the files under the section marked “payment” in the linked page) that provide information regarding revenue opportunities available through CMS/Medicare for care management and virtual communication services (VCS). VCS or “virtual check-ins” for Medicare allow providers to support patients via telephone or evaluate and interpret images/audio submitted by patients for over five (5) minutes.
- **For ongoing webinars on telehealth**, note the series from Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP: [Navigating Telehealth for FQHCs During COVID-19](#).

Federal Policy Updates

Stay Informed: Check these federal pages regularly...

- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Master webpage](#) is the hub for CDC information.
- [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\)](#) prepares clinicians to respond to emerging health threats and public health emergencies. Subscribe to the [COCA RSS Feed](#) to be notified of conference calls, and updates to CDC guidance.

- [HRSA COVID-19 Main page](#) and [HRSA COVID-19 FAQs \(updated daily\)](#)
- [NACHC COVID-19 Main page](#)
- [CMS COVID-19 Main page](#)

CDC Updates

- 4/28 – 5/4 Updates:
 - [Symptom-Based Strategy to Discontinue Isolation for Persons with COVID-19](#)
 - [Ten Ways Healthcare Systems Can Operate Effectively during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID -19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#)
 - [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#)
 - [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
 - [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [Resources for Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
 - [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Disposable Medical Gloves](#)
 - [Contact Tracing](#)
 - [Ten Clinical Tips on COVID-19 for Healthcare Providers Involved in Patient Care](#)
 - [Testing for COVID-19](#)
 - [Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 \(Interim Guidance\)](#)
 - [Staffing Resources](#)
 - [Discontinuation of Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 \(Interim Guidance\)](#)
 - [Dental Settings](#)

HRSA Updates

- [COVID-19-Related Claims Reimbursement for Uninsured Patients](#). Starting May 6, 2020, health care providers who have conducted testing or provided treatment for uninsured patients on or after February 4, 2020, can request [claims reimbursement](#) electronically. Providers generally will be reimbursed at Medicare rates, subject to available funding. Steps will involve: enrolling as a provider participant, checking patient eligibility, submitting patient information, submitting claims electronically, and receiving payment via direct deposit.
 - For more information, including what's covered, how to enroll, and how to submit claims, refer to [HRSA's FAQ page specifically for this program](#) or the program's home page at: <https://coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com/>
- [HRSA's Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) webpage for COVID-19 is regularly updated](#). Highlights from this week:

- [FAQs on HRSA COVID Funding](#)
- **Summary of supplemental funding awarded to support health centers in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency:**
 - On March 24, [HRSA announced the release](#) of \$100 million in fiscal year 2020 funding provided by the [Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020](#) (activity code H8C).
 - On April 8, [HRSA announced the release](#) of more than \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2020 funding provided by the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) (activity code H8D). Health centers may be eligible for relief through several provisions of the CARES Act: The Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program](#), the SBA [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program](#), and the [Provider Relief Fund](#).
 - The Federal Communications Commission's [COVID-19 Telehealth Program](#).
 - For information on how workers and employers will benefit from the protections and relief offered by the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, both part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), [review updated information from the Department of Labor](#).
 - The following additional resources may also be helpful for health centers: 1) The Small Business Administration has information on [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#); 2) Capital Link has [COVID-19 funding sources and financing-related resources and tools](#).
 - HRSA advises that HRSA award recipients may *not use Health Center Program grant funds for costs that are reimbursed or compensated by other federal or state programs that provide for such benefits*.

CMS Updates

- [CMS Reevaluates Accelerated Payment Program and Suspends Advance Payment Program](#). CMS announced on April 26 that it is reevaluating the Accelerated Payment Program and suspending its Advance Payment Program effective immediately.
- [CMS Extends Medicare cost reporting deadlines:](#)

Fiscal Year End	Original Due Date	Extended Due Date
November 30, 2019	April 30, 2020	June 30, 2020
December 31, 2019	May 31, 2020	July 31, 2020

NACHC Updates for Health Centers

- Check out [NACHC's Coronavirus Main Page](#) and the [Health Center Resource Clearinghouse COVID-19 Page](#), which NACHC curates, for a selection of current, high-quality resources about COVID-19.
- [NACHC summary of new federal programs that that may assist health centers](#) in addressing cash flow and payroll concerns created by COVID-19.
- **Operational Resources:**
 - [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) and Non-Traditional Financing for FQHCs during COVID-19](#): This focuses on the latest developments in the PP administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and tips for strengthening health center participation in the PPP. [Access Slides, Transcript or Recording Now which](#) include a good Q&A document on PPP for health centers.
 - [HIPAA Compliance and Telework](#): This short legal guidance memo from Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP guides health center staff in assuring HIPAA compliance in a remote work setting. It accompanies two other NACHC resources: [Remote Work Toolkit](#) and [Reduced Workflows and Staffing Guidance for Non-Clinical Operations COVID-19 Resource Packet](#).
- **Financial Management Resources:**
 - [Finance Office Hours for Health Centers: Strategies to Manage Operations During COVID 19 Webinar Series | Every other week through May 1 \(Times/dates vary\)](#): These office hours are designed to provide timely information and resources to support health centers through this challenging time. Topics will change to address real-time challenges based on health centers input and feedback. View the archived presentations below.
Session 1 | April 3 | [How to Assess and Respond to a Crisis](#)
Session 2 | April 17 | [Cash Flow is Still an Issue](#)
Session 3 | April 28 | [Everything FQHC Medicare!](#)
- **Leadership Resources:**
 - [Field Inspiration Video Series: Health Center Leaders Encouraging Resilience and Finding Inspiration](#). This video series is expected to feature a different health center leader each Monday in the NACHC Member Newsletter COVID-19 Update.
 - [Managing Crisis through Resilient Leadership COVID-19 Resource Packet](#) This resource contains six steps designed to access and be a resilient leader during turbulent times. It is also available in Spanish ([Manejando una crisis a través del liderazgo fuerte y adaptable](#)).