

COVID-19 Emergency Response

Medicaid Fact Sheet

On March 10, 2020 Governor Gretchen Whitmer, declared a state of emergency in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Following this declaration, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has been taking action to leverage available regulatory authorities to support Michigan's healthcare infrastructure and maintain the commitment to high quality services and safety to Medicaid beneficiaries. As a result, the following policies and guidance have been released:

POLICY/EXECUTIVE ORDER

- **COVID-19 Related Covered Services**

- [Coronavirus L 20-16 Letter](#)

- This letter provides general guidance on patient assessment and diagnostic testing protocol, patient management after potential COVID-19 Exposure, potential risk of exposure for healthcare personnel, and preventative measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, the letter highlights the breadth of Medicaid covered treatment services and offers COVID-19 related coding guidance.

- **Telemedicine**

- [MSA 20-09, 3-12-20 Press Release](#)

- March 12, 2020 Governor Whitmer announced expanded access to telemedicine to support COVID-19 response. MSA 20-09 expands the definition of allowable places of service to include home and other sites deemed appropriate by the provider in addition to further defining distant site provider requirements to include the provider's office, or any established site considered appropriate by the provider, so long as the privacy of the beneficiary and security of the information shared during the telemedicine visit are maintained.

- [MSA 20-13](#)

- This policy provides temporary flexibility in telecommunication systems requirements acceptable under current telemedicine policy. Policy allows providers to deliver services to be conducted via telecommunications systems that have telephonic (audio) capabilities only.

- **Out of Pocket Costs**

- [3-6-20 Press Release, associated MSA Policy underdevelopment](#)

- On March 6th, Gov. Whitmer, announced that Medicaid co-pays would be waived for the testing and treatment of coronavirus. MDHHS is waiving copayment and cost-sharing requirements for both inpatient and outpatient services associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and treatment across Medicaid programs.

- **Entry into Care facilities**

[EO 2020-07](#); [FAQs](#)

Executive Order 2020-07 prohibits any visitors into healthcare facilities, residential facilities, and congregate care facilities that are not necessary for the provision of medical care, the support of activities of daily living, or the exercise of power of attorney or court-appointed guardianship for an individual under the facility's care; are not a parent, foster parent, or guardian of an individual 21 years old or younger who is under the facility's care; are not visiting an individual under the facility's care that is in serious or critical condition or in hospice care; and are not visiting under exigent circumstances or for the purpose of performing official governmental functions.

- **Face to Face Service Exceptions**

[MSA 20-12](#)

This policy temporarily provides organizations that provide personalized care the flexibility to leverage telemedicine to support provision of specific services such as assessments and care planning where face to face requirements currently exist.

- **Emergency Certificate of Need, Expanded Licensing/Certification**

[EO 2020-13](#)

Provides MDDHS the authority to issue emergency certificate of need until the termination of the state of emergency, provides LARA the ability to waive licensure requirements for the operation, construction or acquisition of temporary or mobile facilities for healthcare purposes by currently licensed hospitals in the state. This executive order also allows LARA to issue temporary registration as certified nurse aide, waive continuing education requirements for licensure renewal, allow non-nursing assistants to support transportation or feeding patients or residents consistent with care plan.

GUIDANCE:

The State Emergency Operations Center and the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center support review of nationally available resources and development of Michigan specific guidance or resources where necessary. These materials are regularly posted to the MDHHS Coronavirus information webpage >> [Resources for Health Professionals](#).

- **Evaluation and Management Facilities Guidance**

[Facility EM Guidance](#)

This document provides pertinent guidance for healthcare facilities related to the evaluation and management of patients/residents, providing considerations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), considerations for communal spaces, and recommended infection prevention control practices.

- **Admission Guidance**

[Facility Admissions Guidance](#)

Highlights considerations for healthcare facilities for admission of residents and patients including steps to take upon arrival and during the patient visit, triage practices, and considerations for patient placement when exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

- **Discharge Guidance**
[Facility Discharge Guidance](#)
 Highlights considerations for healthcare facilities for the discharge of residents and patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. Guidance includes considerations when a COVID-19 test was not warranted, information on Medicare’s Discharge Planning Regulations, considerations for Long-Term Care Settings, and specific guidance for discharge to the community.
- **Hospital to Post-Acute Care Transfer Workflow**
[Transfer Guidance and Workflow](#)
 This guidance includes a form to facilitate communication between providers and facilities during patient transfers. Guided workflow and space for pertinent clinical information related to patients with potential respiratory illness symptoms.
- **Community Mitigation Strategies**
[March 11, 2020 Letter](#)
 This letter from the Governor’s Office provides interim recommendations for COVID-19 community mitigation strategies across numerous settings including residential facilities.
- **MDHHS Dental Practice Guidance**
[Dental Practice Guidance](#)
 Highlights standard precautions, including the use of proper personal protective equipment, that should be followed when caring for any patient. The practices highlighted are designed to both protect dental health care professionals and prevent dental health care professionals from spreading infections among patients.
- **MDHHS Substance Use Disorder Treatment Guidance**
[Guidance for SUD Treatment Providers](#)
 Covers general precautions and provides program specific guidance regarding the use of telemedicine practices, and “take-home” medication supplies.
- **MI Person Under Investigation/Case Reporting**
[MI Interim COVID-19 PUI/Case Report Form](#)
 This form is to be used for any Human Infection with 2019 Novel Coronavirus Person Under Investigation (PUI) and Case Report Form. Additional supports are available through the local health department (LHD). The LHD can provide consultation on COVID-19 testing, coordinate notification to MDHHS, and guide the specimen submission process.

Additionally, MDHHS is encouraging Health Care Facilities and Providers to follow CDC Guidance to prevent spread of COVID-19:

- [CDC Resources for Health Care Facilities](#)
- [CDC Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take](#)

- [CDC Guidance for Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [CDC Strategies to prevent Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [CDC Updated N95 Mask Guidance](#)