

COVID-19 Updates

Colorado Department of
Health Care Policy & Financing

August 21, 2020

Overview

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) Update

- Melanie Roth-Lawson, Trainer/Emergency Response Coordinator, CDPHE

Updates New Guidance Resources

- Bonnie Silva, Office of Community Living Director, HCPF



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Update

- Surveyor Testing
- EM Resource CDPHE_EMResource@state.co.us



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Policy & Financing

EM Resource Reporting Now Required

Per [Public Health Order 20-20](#) (amended July 30), regular reporting to CDPHE is now required for Residential Care Settings

Reporting will be done through EM Resource, a web-based tool used to assist the State with situational awareness and identification of providers' resource needs

- The State monitors the data that providers enter into EM Resource several times each week to create critical needs reports that go to the state's emergency healthcare lead

Timeline:

- Nursing Homes required reporting began August 5, 2020
- Assisted Living Residences required reporting began August 12, 2020
- Group Homes and ICFs required reporting began August 19, 2020

Contact: melanie.roth-lawson@state.co.us

EM Resource Statistics*

Melanie Roth-Lawson

- **Nursing Homes**
 - 93% with 214 facilities reporting
 - 2 facilities reporting outstanding PPE needs
- **Assisted Living Residences**
 - 21% with 152 facilities reporting
 - 2 facilities reporting outstanding PPE needs
- **Group Homes and Intermediate Care**
 - 37% with 52 facilities reporting
 - 0 facilities reporting outstanding PPE needs
- NHs reporting they do not have staff to care for **additional* residents and/or to **support a surge: 37*
- ALRs reporting they do not have to staff to care for **additional* residents and/or to **support a surge: 42*
- Group homes and ICFs reporting they do not have to staff to care for **additional* residents and/or to **support a surge: 4*

*data as of 8/19/2020

Public Health Emergency Ending Example Scenarios

- Extending or Ending the Public Health Emergency is a Fed. They can extend for up to 90 days at a time
- We have asked CMS/HHS for at least 2-months notice prior to allowing the Public Health Emergency to end with 90 days to re-determine eligibility on impacted members, but they may not comply

If Public Health Emergency Ends...	Then SPAs, 1135 Waivers, and Optional Uninsured Testing Group Ends	Then Continuous Coverage Requirement Ends	Then MOE Requirement keep Eligibility Levels & Benefits the Same and Enhanced 6.2% FMAP Ends
October 23, 2020	October 23, 2020	October 31, 2020	December 31, 2020
January 21, 2021	January 21, 2021	January 31, 2021	March 31, 2021

Survey Background

- HCPF partnered with Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Connect for Health Colorado
- Survey sent by CDLE on 07/31 as part of broader message about federal benefits expiring
- Approximately 500K in the CDLE email blast
- 5,513 survey respondents (one week in field)

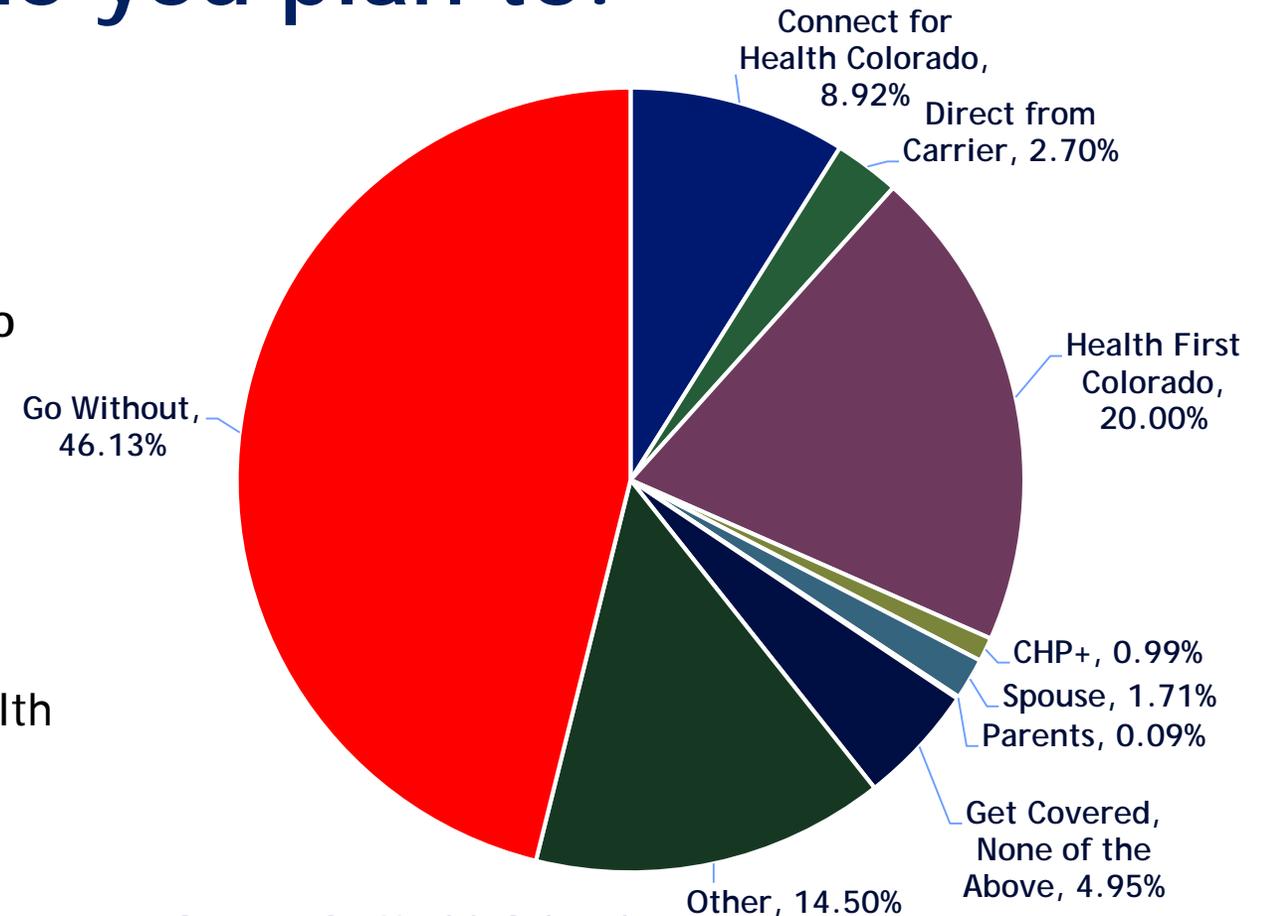
Where are you getting your health insurance coverage currently?

- 8.97% - employer extended health care benefits
- 4.73% - employer's COBRA option
- 15.94% - spouse's health insurance
- 2.18% - under age 26, on my parent's health insurance policy
- 10.70% - coverage through Connect for Health Colorado
- 22.47% - Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program)
- .21% - covered by Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+)
- 15.47% - have healthcare coverage, but not through any of the above*
- 19.33%** - I don't have health insurance coverage

*Examples of coverage respondents listed include: Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans, VA, TriCare, COBRA and other insurance purchased directly from a carrier but not through Connect for Health Colorado.

If you are currently uninsured, or anticipate being uninsured, do you plan to:

- 8.92% - Purchase coverage through Connect for Health Colorado
- 2.70% - Purchase coverage directly from a health insurance company
- 20.0% - Apply for coverage with Health First Colorado (CO Medicaid)
- .99% - Apply for coverage with Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)
- 1.71% - Get covered through my spouse's health insurance
- 0.09% - Under 26, get covered through my parent's health insurance
- 4.95% - Get covered, but not through any of the above
- 14.50% - Other
- **46.13% - Go without health insurance coverage**



- Connect for Health Colorado
- Direct from Carrier
- Health First Colorado
- CHP+
- Spouse
- Parents
- Get Covered, None of the Above
- Other

Help us reach Providers who need to enroll in Medicaid

Coloradans are losing jobs and therefore their employer sponsored coverage.

To retain their patients and revenue, care providers not currently enrolled in Medicaid need to do so.

Help us spread the word to providers please. Post, share, communicate this attachment.



Become A Medicaid Provider TODAY

As a result of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing is asking health care providers to join us in ensuring all Coloradans have access to quality health care during this public health crisis by becoming a Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) provider.

We're Here for YOU, Colorado!

Learn about becoming a provider at www.colorado.gov/hcpf/become-a-provider.

 **Health First**
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Colorado's Medicaid Program

Federal Impact: LGBTQ - ACA & SCOTUS

Two contradictory outcomes:

- On June 12, HHS rolled back ACA LGBTQ anti-discrimination protections that had expanded the definition of "sex" to include gender identity
 - HCPF/GO had submitted comments against the proposed rule changes last year
- On June 15, SCOTUS issued 6-3 decision that LGBTQ people cannot be fired for being LGBTQ pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Aligns with Colorado protections already in place
 - Supports our goal to make a Colorado that Works for All
- On August 17, a federal judge ruled the roll back to the ACA protections could NOT move forward, putting implementation of the new rules on hold

The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act protects against discrimination in health care by making it unlawful to discriminate against individuals in "places of public accommodation," which is any place of business serving the "health, appearance, or physical condition of a person" including any "dispensary, clinic, hospital, convalescent home, or other institution for the sick, ailing, aged, or infirm []." C.R.S. 24-34-601(1).

Electronic Visit Verification Update

8/3/2020 - EVV mandate, providers must use EVV

- EVV is now required for all [mandated services](#). Department is looking for good faith effort by providers, not perfection
- [Training](#) is available online and must be completed prior to EVV use
- Claims will continue to pay and EVV errors will appear on Remittance Advice (EOB 3054)
- Beginning 1/1/2021, claims for EVV required services without corresponding EVV records will deny
- Additional information for providers can be found on the [EVV Resources page](#)

Live-in Caregivers *may* be exempt from EVV

- Eligibility is outlined in the [Operational Memo](#)
- Those who qualify should complete the [Live-in Caregiver Attestation Form](#)

Please notify the Department of any unavoidable delays via email: EVV@state.co.us
If you need support with SANDATA training, EVV State Solution, or interfacing Provider Choice Systems, call or email the EVV Help Desk at 1-855-871-8780 / COCustomercare@sandata.com



Provider Revalidation

- Reminder that revalidation is underway for CHP+ and Medicaid providers
- First set of deadlines for the next revalidation cycle will be in October 2020 (revalidation notices started going out to providers in April or May for providers who were approved late 2015)
- Providers will be contacted via email approximately 6 months prior to their revalidation deadline with further instructions
 - Attempting to revalidate by completing a new application before being notified will create duplicate enrollments and cause claim processing issues
- Providers can find their upcoming revalidation deadline by checking the new Provider Revalidation Dates spreadsheet, now available on the [Revalidation web page](#) under the Health First Colorado and CHP+ Provider Revalidation section
- Providers are also encouraged to review the [Special Revalidation Newsletter](#) and [Special Revalidation Newsletter II](#), available on the [Provider News web page](#) under the Newsletters > 2020 drop-down section

HCBS and Telehealth

- Due to COVID-19, Telehealth has been allowed for many home and community-based services (see [Operational Memo 20-046](#) for full list)
- Hearing about positive impact for members, so working toward sustaining some Telehealth in HCBS through waiver agreements
- Working together across HCPF on coordinated approach
- Stakeholder Engagement coming soon!
 - Meetings will be announced via Constant Contact email and posted here: www.colorado.gov/hcpf/OCL-stakeholder-engagement

HCBS During School Hours

- With the use of remote schooling, many families may find they are not following the same school schedule
- Keeping this in mind, the Department will not prohibit the use of HCBS during “routine” school hours
- However, must ensure the purpose and goal of the service being provided does not overlap with any of the curriculum or school-based needs of the child or youth receiving HCBS

Nursing Facility Updates

- We are awaiting more information about the Point-of-Care Antigen Testing devices being provided by CMS
 - Will provide feedback and guidance once we learn more
- The Strike Team is actively working on re-looking at the guidance for communal dining and small group activities
 - This is happening simultaneously with a review of the outdoor visitation guidance and the new, soon to be released, indoor visitation guidance
 - Anticipate guidance and clarifications will be released very soon

ConnectToCareJobs Update

New or Upcoming New Features

For Employers:

- "Prospect Dashboard" where you can manage the status of each job seeker (Can indicate on their match list if they are interested, or have contacted, interviewed or hired the job candidate)
- Home Care Agencies and LTC Settings coming soon!

For Job Seekers:

- Option to upload a resume and up to 3 additional documents
- Option to not appear in matches
- Ability to mark multiple job positions

733 Registered Job Seekers

- 234 Registered Nurses (RNs)
- 130 Certified Nursing Assistants/Patient Care Technicians
- 58 Nurse Practitioners

New Guidance Issued



[OM 20-083](#)

All COVID-19 related Memos can be found here: www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response



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Policy & Financing

OM 20-083

TITLE: DAY HABILITATION SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Clarity about how Day Habilitation may be provided to HCBS waiver members under the [Protect Our Neighbors Executive Order](#)
- Department encourages service delivery in the community whenever possible as the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 illness is lower outdoors

(does not supersede [OM 20-070: Updated Information Pertaining to Day Program Services in Response to COVID-19](#), but rather provides additional guidance)

Supported Community Connections

- Until further notice, SCC does not have to “utilize the community as a learning environment”
- Several other modifications to SCC are being made to help providers help members access SCC (see memo for list)
- Temporarily allow members who reside in an IRSS setting or Group Home determine to return to SCC service agency or have the IRSS or Group Home temporarily provide the SCC service (See memo for instructions. Residential provider must be approved SCC provider.)

Specialized Habilitation

- Until further notice, SH may include virtual individual and/or group activities, hosted by the current SH service agency.
- For those members living in an IRSS setting who are considered “at risk,” or do not feel comfortable returning to group settings, SH may also continue to be provided 1:1 in the member’s home by the SH service agency. **Note: this does not apply to Group Home settings.**
- Residential providers are expected to provide 24/7 regular care for members including services that are provided under SH, such as assistance with feeding, toileting, self-care, etc. Because of this, residential providers will not be allowed to also provide the SH service to members who live in the home.

[Link: OM 20-083](#)

Provider Relief Fund

Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) [press release on July 31](#)

- Deadline extended again to August 28, 2020 for Medicaid/CHIP/dental providers
 - Portal is being reopened as of August 10 for providers that were left out of any of these distributions, including providers that had a change of ownership and providers that are new (started billing Medicare/Medicaid after the prior cutoffs), can also go into the portal as of August 10 to apply for a distribution
- Visit the [Providers page](#) for Key Facts and steps for how to apply
- See the [Medicaid provider FAQs](#) for additional information



New Questions?

Stay Engaged

Memos, Webinar Info, and FAQs - Updated Regularly

www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response

Email us

HCPF_HCBS_Questions@state.co.us

Subscribe to Future Updates

[Click here to subscribe](#)

Previous Guidance

Case Management Agencies

Operational Changes

- [OM 20-049](#)
- [OM 20-027](#)
- [OM 20-037](#)
- [OM 20-045](#)
- [OM 20-075](#)

PASRR Changes

- [OM 20-043](#)

Critical Incident Reporting for COVID-19

- [OM 20-080](#)

Level of Care Changes

- [OM 20-053](#)

Transition Coordination

- [OM 20-056](#)

In-Person & Travel Add-On

- [OM 20-076](#)

Facilities and PACE

Infection Control And Prevention in NHs (CMS)

- [CMS QSO-20-14-NH](#)

Telemedicine in Nursing Facilities

- [OM 20-032](#)

Training & Certification

- [OM 20-038](#)

Rate Increase

- [OM 20-050](#)

Options Counseling

- [OM 20-054](#)

Stimulus Payments

- [OM 20-059](#)

Civil Money Penalty (CMP)

- [IM 20-021](#)

HCBS Providers

HCBS Therapy Services

- [OM 20-020](#)

Guidance for Class B Providers

- [OM 20-023](#)

Changes to Benefits & Services (Table)

- [OM 20-046](#)

Telemedicine

- [Temporary Policy](#)

Host Home Inspections

- [OM 20-036](#)

CDASS Sick Time

- [OM 20-047](#)

Changes to Benefits & Services Rates (Table)

- [OM 20-048](#)

Flexibility in Hiring

- [IM 20-019](#)

CC & SCC Clarifications

- [OM 20-060](#)

Additional Provider Relief Funds

- [IM 20-024](#)

Non-Medical Transportation

- [OM 20-063](#)

Retainer Payments Ending

- [OM 20-069](#)

Guidance for Reopening or Expanding Day Programs

- [OM 20-070](#)

CDPHE TA for IRSS

- [IM 20-031](#)

Updated Residential Guidance

- [OM 20-072](#)

Telehealth Billing Requirements

- [OM 20-077](#)

Other Resources

Added a “COVID-19 Resources for LTSS” document to our webpage:

www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response

LTSS COVID-19 Webinars and Training

LTSS stakeholders and providers are invited to participate in discussions about the implications for service delivery, case management, payment...

+ [Upcoming Webinars](#)

+ [Webinar Recordings and Materials](#)

+ [COVID-19 Training for Frontline Staff](#)

+ [COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

- [Other Resources](#)

- [COVID-19 Resources for LTSS - August 2020](#)



Reminder: Personal Protective Equipment

If you or your organization are experiencing a shortage or outage of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, gowns, etc.) to conduct essential or life saving functions during this crisis, please reach out to your **local emergency manager** or **local public health department**.

[Find Your Local Community Emergency Manager](#)
[Find Your Local Public Health Department](#)

To report issues in
obtaining PPE please
notify:

Sadie Martinez
Access and Functional Needs
Coordinator
Office of Emergency Management
720.610.1691
sadie.martinez@state.co.us

More Information



www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/



www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page



covid19.colorado.gov



Local Public Health Agencies

www.colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency



www.colorado.gov/hcpf/COVID



Next Steps

Webinar Frequency

Reducing frequency for existing Department webinars in September.

- **Disability Community - New Time**
 - September 11 and October 9, 2020 at 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- **All LTSS Providers and Case Management Agencies**
 - September 11 and October 9, 2020 at noon - 1 p.m.
- **HCBS and CMA Questions and Technical Assistance**
 - September 25 and October 23, 2020 at noon - 1 p.m.

NEW! Strike Team Webinar

- Cross-state agency bi-weekly webinar on the work carried out by the COVID-19 Residential Care Strike Team
- During these informational webinars the Strike Team will:
 - Provide updates on key progress made to-date, including data metrics
 - Share upcoming initiatives and areas of focus
 - Solicit feedback and answer questions from Stakeholders

Friday, August 28, 2020
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. MDT
Repeating Every Other Friday

Webinar Link:

<https://cohcpf.adobeconnect.com/rlzrh590rzxq/>

Webinar Call-in Information:

Local: 720-279-0026

Toll Free: 1-877-820-7831

Participant Code: 303146#

Thank You!