

COVID-19 Updates

Colorado Department of
Health Care Policy & Financing

October 9, 2020

Overview

Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) Update

- Kim Bimestefer
Executive Director, HCPF
- Bonnie Silva
Office of Community Living
Director, HCPF

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) Update

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

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension

- Federal gov dictates timing, length of PHE. Extensions can be for 90-days at a time
- On Oct. 2, HHS Sec. Azar extended PHE effective 10/23, for the third time
- We have asked the Fed for as much advance notice as possible for future extensions
- HCPF will post updates to colorado.gov/hcpf/PHE-planning

If Public Health Emergency Ends (chart <u>assumes</u> full 90 days extension starting 10/23)...	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
January 21, 2021	January 21, 2021	January 31, 2021	March 31, 2021

Executive Director Communication - PHE

Good news: the federal government is [extending the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) that was set to expire on October 23rd. This means the PHE will now be in place through January 20th, ending on January 21, 2021. We will still be diligent in planning and preparing for the end of the PHE, but this extension is very welcome news.

Many advocates and other partners joined the Department in asking our federal partners for this extension and for as much notice as possible about any changes to the PHE. Thank you to all who engaged in this important effort. Our shared voices were heard to the betterment of the Coloradans we serve, the state budget, battling the rising uninsured rate, and administrative efficiencies for both HCPF and counties.

We also launched a [PHE planning stakeholder page](#) that provides general resources and information. We encourage you to periodically visit this page, which will include member FAQs, notices and other updates. The Department will continue to update this link with the latest PHE federal guidance as it becomes available.

Thank you for your collaboration during these uncertain times. We appreciate your partnership.

ACA Discussion

- Senate Supreme Court Nomination Hearing
- November 10th Supreme Court Hearing. May or June likely decision.
- ACA Discussion:
 - Medicaid expansion up to 138% of FPL, 90/10 Fed \$\$
 - Exchanges, federal subsidies up to 400% of FPL
 - Up to age 26
 - Required employer-sponsored coverage, except employers < 50
 - Consumer protections like prohibition of caps on ins coverage, cancelling coverage, pre-existing conditions
 - Medical Loss Ratio limitations
- Federal election. Potential outcomes. Planning.

COVID Resource Center

- New PHE Planning Stakeholder & Partner Resource Center available at colorado.gov/hcpf/phe-planning
 - Latest federal updates
 - HCPF Letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - Member messaging, member FAQs
- County & Eligibility partner FAQs, call center/front line worker talking points and other materials in development.
- [Member COVID Resources](#)
- [County & Eligibility Site COVID Resources](#)
- [Provider COVID Resources](#)

New! Mobile App for Members

Please help us get the word out to our partners that the Health First Colorado app (formerly *PeakHealth*) is the best way for members to manage their coverage. With the [Health First Colorado app](#), members can:

- See if their coverage is active
- View their member ID card
- Tell us about changes to their household
- Upload documents like paystubs
- Keep track of deadlines
- Learn about their benefits

Members need to make an account at CO.gov/PEAK, and then they can download the free [Health First Colorado app](#).

Appendix K Extension

CMS approved Colorado's 6th Appendix K Amendment on September 28, 2020
Extends the expiration to March 9, 2021

- Expanded the setting where Adult Day Service can be provided to parks, churches, and other buildings.
- Modified Adult Day to bill in 15-minute unit increments instead of the half-day unit (EBD, CMHS, SCI, and BI waivers)
 - Allows providers to render services for up to 3 hours a day for members who may be vulnerable and do not want to be in a group setting or a facility site.
- Modified the billing processes for Specialized Habilitation service within Day Habilitation to include three tiers for participants.
 - Tier 1 is for virtual only services
 - Tier 2 is for traditional specialized habilitation
 - Tier 3 includes the option for specialized habilitation to be provided in a 1 on 1 setting for members who are not able to, or choose not to, be served in a group or virtually.

HHS Announces New Round of Provider Relief Funds

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced \\$20 billion in new funding for providers](#)
- Under this Phase 3 General Distribution allocation, providers that already received Provider Relief Fund payments are invited to apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the coronavirus
- Previously ineligible providers, such as those who began practicing in 2020, are also invited to apply, and an expanded group of behavioral health providers will also be eligible for payments
- Providers will have from October 5, 2020 through November 6, 2020 to apply for Phase 3 General Distribution funding
- Additional information and application details are available at www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/index.html

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

- The Department worked with providers for over 2 years to develop a flexible EVV model which offers training, technical assistance, ongoing and regularly updated FAQs, and dedicated methods of contacting the Department and Sandata to troubleshoot
- The Department required EVV for all providers beginning 8/3/2020
 - This was part of a soft connection. Focused on effort and solutions - not perfection
- The Department is concerned with the current compliance rate of only 50%
- However, providers who are *not* attempting compliance from EVV may now begin to be financially penalized
 - Note: we know some providers are working towards compliance and are not "connected" due to issues out of their control - these providers will not be penalized
- All materials and information regarding EVV can be found at: www.colorado.gov/hcpf/evv

New LTSS Assessment, Support Plan, Person-Centered Budget Algorithm

- After years of development with stakeholders, the new [Long-Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\) Assessment and Support Plan](#) are being finalized, under direction of CLAG and SB 16-192
- The LTSS Assessment and Support Plan will be **automated** in a new Care and Case Management IT platform to streamline experience for individuals and case managers (the contract for this work is being finalized right now)
- The Department will begin **extensive testing** of Care and Case Management tool and the automation of the LTSS Assessment and Support Plan this winter
- The Department is working with our contractors to develop **robust training** for Case Managers in addition to resources for individuals and families
- The final phase of SB 16-192 is developing a [Person-Centered Budget Algorithm \(PCBA\)](#) to **objectively allocate** resources for all HCBS waiver members. Currently working with stakeholders and contractor in early stages of development.

New Normal

Telehealth

- The Department has met with stakeholders for a total of three engagement opportunities to discuss Telehealth in HCBS waivers
- Received feedback on regulation development, rate development, and other necessary considerations in implementing Telehealth
- Working on a regulatory and best practice review of other State's use of Telehealth in Medicaid programs
- Will share more information on regulation development and waiver applications at our November stakeholder meetings

New Normal Stakeholder Meetings

Telehealth - Rescheduled

New:

Regulations

- Monday November 2, 2020: 1 pm - 3 pm
- Meeting ID - meet.google.com/zgo-xadz-bft
- Phone Number - +1 530-517-7023 PIN: 676 844 261#

Rates Review

- Tuesday November 10, 2020: 1 pm - 3 pm
- Meeting ID - meet.google.com/vox-smub-xwu
- Phone Number - +1 401-646-2011 PIN: 334 543 927#

~~Old:~~

~~"Telehealth Options in HCBS"~~

~~Tuesday Oct 20, 1-3 pm~~

~~&~~

~~Tuesday Oct 27, 1-3 pm~~

New Normal

Day Habilitation

- Due to the limitations COVID has placed on group services, the Department is working on providing flexible options for the delivery of Day Habilitation Services.
- These flexibilities include virtual services and services provided on an individual basis.
- The Department held stakeholder meetings on September 10th and October 1st to discuss the options and the necessary limitations that will be needed for an individual delivery option in order to remain budget neutral.
- Due to stakeholder feedback about the suggested limitations, the Department recognized a need to hold an additional meeting to discuss other possible ways to implement these flexibilities while remaining budget neutral.
- The next meeting was originally scheduled for October 22, however the Department has since moved this meeting in order to accommodate an Alliance meeting that is scheduled for the same day.

New Normal Stakeholder Meetings

Day Habilitation

Engagement Opportunity for Day Habilitation Stakeholders

Date and Time:

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
(Note: Rescheduled from 10/22 to account for Alliance Meeting)

Link: <https://cohcpf.adobeconnect.com/idd/>

Call-In Phone Number: 1-877-820-7831

Participant Code: 706065#

EM Resource Update



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Participation Levels (as of 10/7/2020)

- 100% NHs
- 72% ALR
- 90% GHs/ICFs

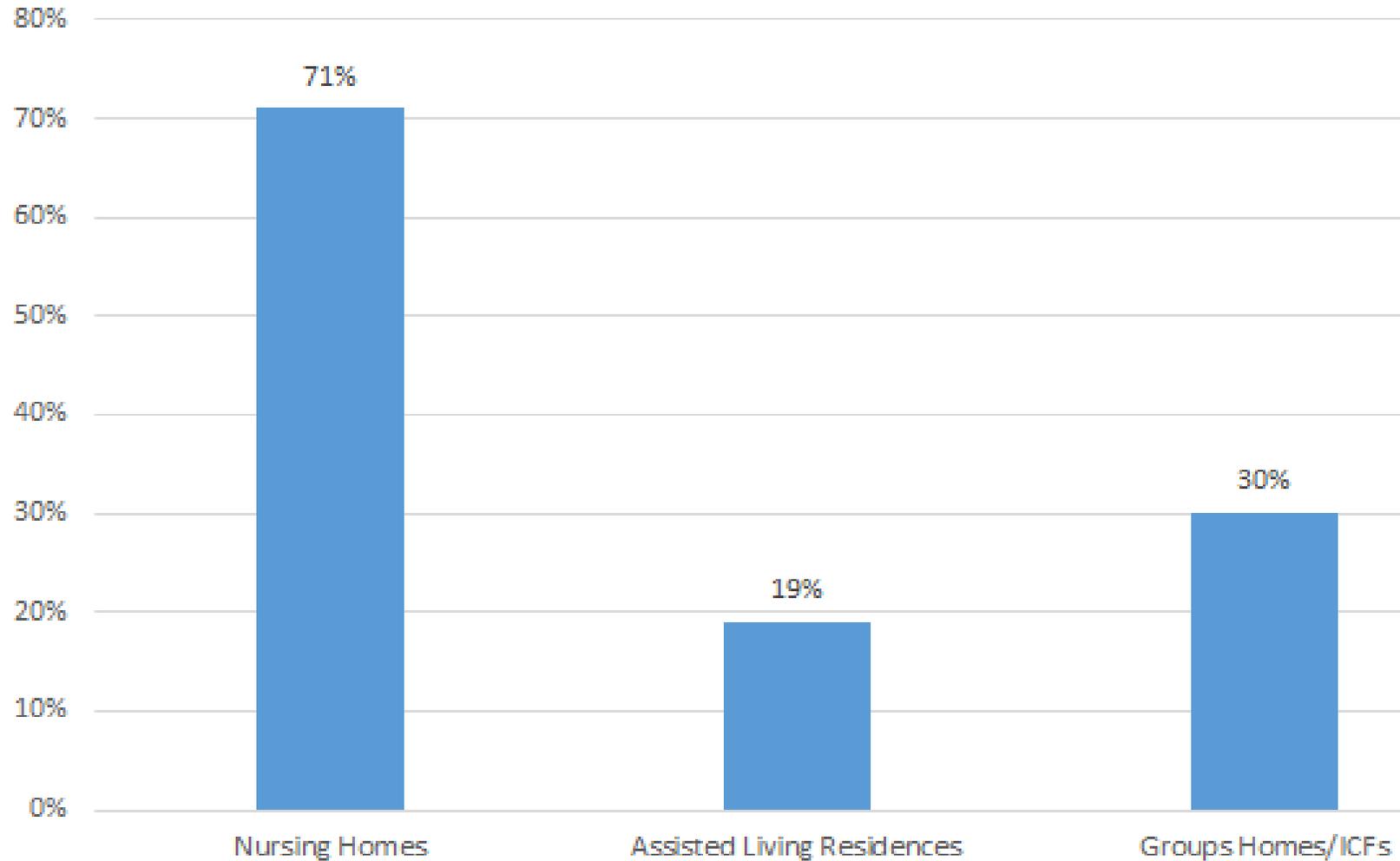
Non-participation

- 999 tag - informational
- Deficiency with failure to report/POC required

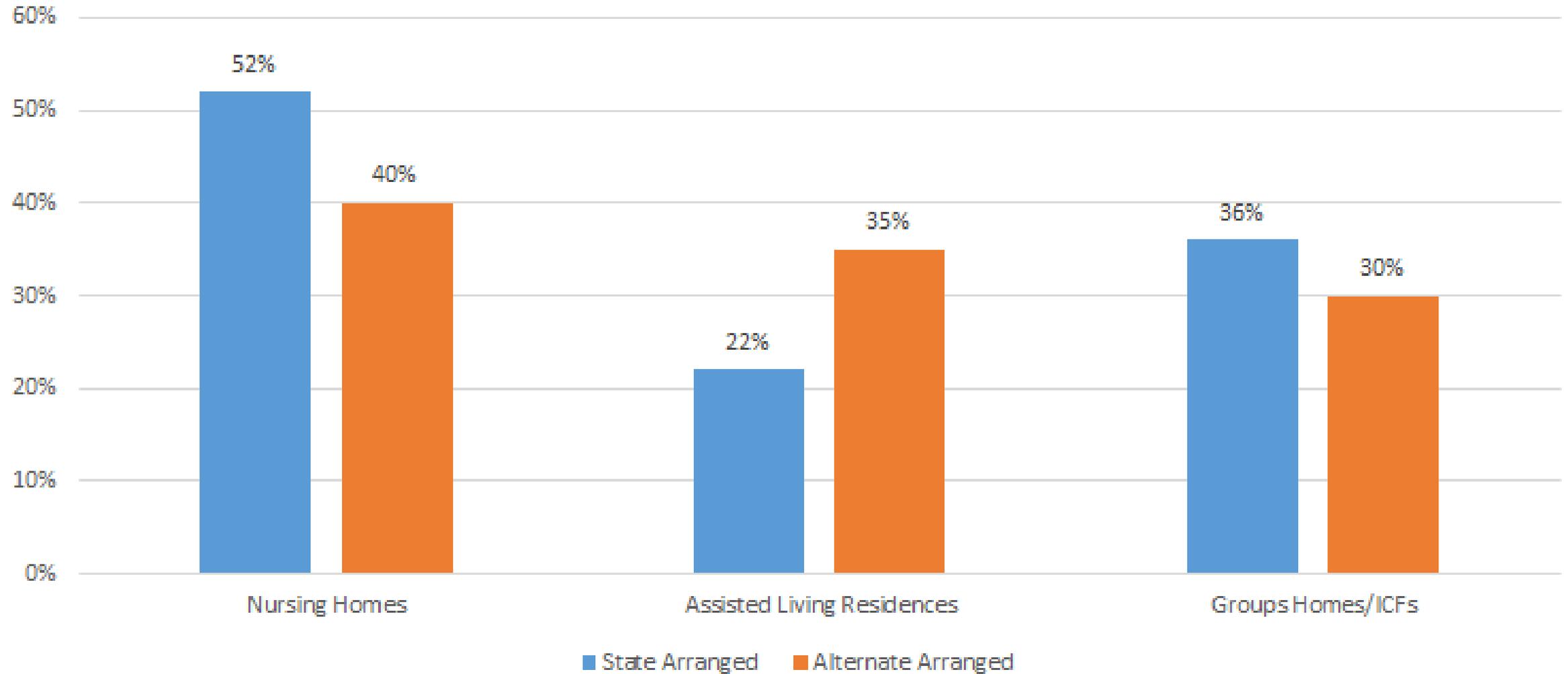
Facilities Without PPE for 7 Days

- 2 NHs
- 1 ALR
- 0 GHs/ICFs

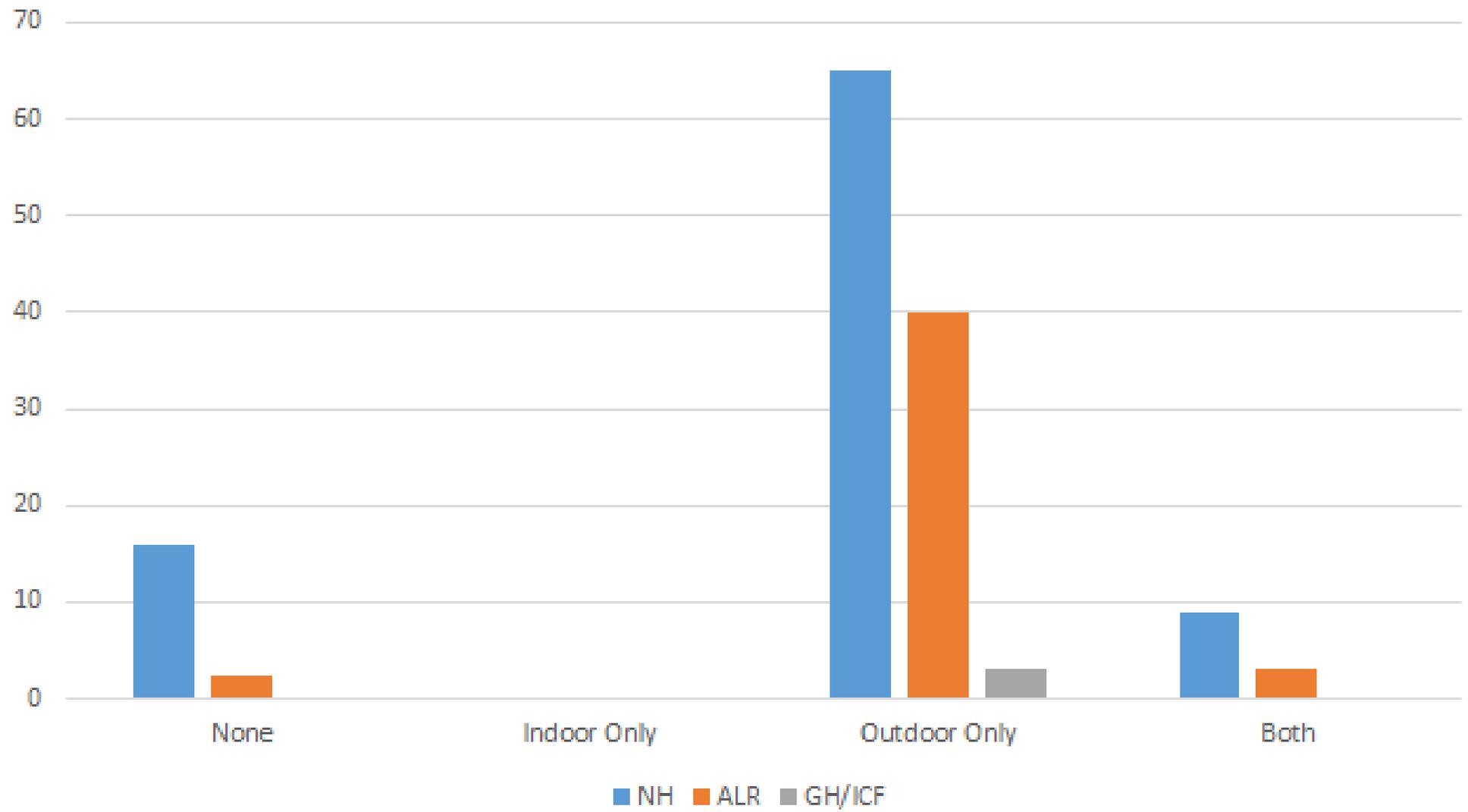
Facilities Testing Everyone (as of 10/7/2020)



Facility Testing Methods (as of 10/7/2020)



Visitation in Place (as of 10/7/2020)



New Guidance Issued



[OM 20-092](#)

[OM 20-093](#)

[IM 20-048](#)

[OM 20-089](#)

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

OM 20-092

TITLE: UPDATED STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

- CMS requires the Service Plan to be signed by the Member, case manager and **all individuals and providers responsible for the implementation**
- Service Plan signature page has been updated and is available on the Department website at [Long-Term Services and Supports Case Management Tools Web Page](#)
 - *Annual Service Plans*: Member, case manager and **all providers** must sign the form
 - *Service Plan Revisions*: Member, case manager and **provider responsible for implementing the revised portion of the plan** must sign the form
- Utilize the updated form starting October 1, 2020 and going forward
- [OM 20-049](#) is still in place allowing 60-day extension to receive signed forms
- **Frequently Asked Questions document is being developed**

LINK: [OM 20-092](#)

OM 20-093

TITLE: REMOVING TRAVEL TIME UNITS FROM PARs WITH HOMEMAKER & PERSONAL CARE SERVICES

- SEPs have been allowed to authorize additional units for Personal Care and Homemaker Services, in order to allow agencies to bill for travel time
- As of Jan 1, 2021, travel time will no longer be permitted to be billed as part of Personal Care and Homemaker services
- All PARs authorizing Personal Care and/or Home Maker Services with an end date in 2021 must be revised to remove units allotted for travel time
- To assist SEPs with the completion of the required revisions, the Department is providing PAR data and implementing an information sharing system with the SEPs
- For reference: [PM 20-008: Discontinuation of Travel Time Billing for Personal Care and Homemaker Services \(Non-IDD Waivers\)](#) and [Travel Time FAQs](#)

LINK: [OM 20-093](#)

Revision Technical Assistance Call for Single Entry Points

- Case Management Unit and EVV implementation team will hold a technical assistance call on **October 14, 2020** to address questions regarding the policy change and revision process
- Staff from the Benefits Division will be on hand to address any questions there may be about Adult Day revisions

IM 20-048

TITLE: NON-MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NMT), MEDICAID CLIENT TRANSPORT (MCT) PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

- The Department is requiring that all providers of this benefit obtain a Medicaid Client Transport (MCT) permit through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- To obtain the MCT permit and vehicle stamps, NMT providers will be subject to new safety measures which include fingerprint-based background checks for all drivers and vehicle inspections
 - **New NMT Providers:** Must obtain the MCT permit as a condition of their Medicaid approval
 - **Existing NMT Providers:** Must obtain the MCT permit no later than June 30, 2021 (strongly encouraged to do so ASAP)
- The stamp is valid only for the calendar year for which it is purchased
 - Annual fee of \$50 must be paid to the Commission by January 1st of each year

LINK: [IM 20-048](#)

OM 20-089

TITLE: CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER RATE INCREASES FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

- Denver-based rate increase due to the City and County's decision to increase minimum wage.
- The Colorado General Assembly approved an increase to provider rates in the Long Bill (HB20- 1360) for some HCBS providers rendering services in the City and County of Denver
- Per SB19-238, some providers are required to pass through 85% of the Denver Minimum Wage Rate Increase to direct care workers and report compliance to HCPF
- The Department will update rates in the Bridge and Interchange for members identified as living within the City and County of Denver

LINK: [OM 20-089](#)

Strike Team Updates

- Upcoming survey out to facilities
 - Focus: Challenges and strategies that are working
- Working to provide suggestions and ideas to facilities on how to manage upcoming holidays
- Still trying to get clarity from CMS about the indoor visitation requirements for NFs
- Working with County Clerks and facilities to ensure resident access to voting in upcoming election

Direct Care Workforce Summit

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:00 am - Noon

This summit aims to raise awareness about the value and impact of direct care workers, as well as the growing need for these essential workers in Colorado communities.

Featured Speakers:

Lt. Governor Diane Primavera, HCPF Executive Director Kim Bimstefer, and Robyn Stone, LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston

Advanced Registration Required:

www.colorado.gov/hcpf/direct-care-workforce-collaborative



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 COVID-19 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](#)

Level of Care Changes

- [OM 20-053](#)

Transition Coordination

- [OM 20-056](#)

In-Person & Travel Add-On

- [OM 20-076](#)

Critical Incident Reporting for COVID-19

- [OM 20-080](#)

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](#)

Day Hab Svcs in Response to COVID-19

- [OM 20-083](#)

Reporting COVID-19 Supplemental Payments on the MED-13

- [OM 20-086](#)

Billing Guidance for HCBS Providers When Using Telehealth

- [OM 20-090](#)

Adult Day Svcs in Response to COVID-19

- [OM 20-091](#)

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 an informational webinar to discuss the implications for service delivery, case management, payment, operational

+ [Upcoming Webinars](#)

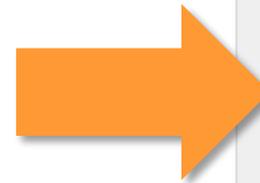
+ [Webinar Recordings and Materials](#)

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

+ [COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

- [Other Resources](#)

- [COVID-19 Resources for LTSS](#) - Updated September 11, 2020
- [Supporting You, Supporting Us Poster](#) - September 2020
- [Have You Changed Poster](#) - September 2020
- [Your Guide to Wearing PPE Video](#) - September 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



Residential Care Strike Team -
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/residential-care-strike-team



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing



Next Steps

Upcoming Webinars

- **Disability Community**

- November 13, 2020 at 2 - 3 p.m.

- **All LTSS Providers and Case Management Agencies**

- November 13, 2020 at noon - 1 p.m.

**Break for Joint Budget Committee and Holidays
After November 13, SEE YOU IN 2021!**

Stay up to date on meeting times at:

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

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, October 16, 2020
10:30 - 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!