

# 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

## Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC) Update

- Julie Reiskin, Executive Director, CCDC

## Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) Update

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

## Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) Update

- Bonnie Silva, Office of Community Living Director, HCPF

# 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](https://colorado.gov/hcpf/PHE-planning)

<b>If Public Health Emergency Ends (chart <u>assumes</u> full 90 days extension starting 10/23)...</b>	<b>Then SPAs,1135 Waivers, and Optional Uninsured Testing Group Ends</b>	<b>Then Continuous Coverage Requirement Ends</b>	<b>Then MOE Requirement keep Eligibility Levels &amp; Benefits the Same and Enhanced 6.2% FMAP Ends</b>
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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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](https://CO.gov/PEAK), and then they can download the free [Health First Colorado app](#).

# Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

[www.ccdonline.org](http://www.ccdonline.org)  
[covid@ccdonline.org](mailto:covid@ccdonline.org)

Weekly Webinars and chat spaces  
Opportunities for engagement  
Individual Advocacy including appeals

# Helping People Vote

The logo consists of the word "PLAN" in red, "YOUR" in white, and "VOTE." in dark blue, all in a bold, sans-serif font, set against a light blue square background.

## DO

- Ask the person how they want to vote?
- What help if any do they want?
- Who they want to help them?
- Assist first time voters with copying their ID as they register.
- Assist the person to reach out to Disability Law Colorado if there are voting rights violations.
- Explain in plain language the Ballot Measures

## DO NOT

- Tell anyone how they should vote.
- Tell someone over whom you have power how you vote unless you have a natural relationship.
- Give any impression that support or affection will be withheld if the person does not vote as you want.
- Get impatient if they take a long time (it is a long ballot). Book adequate time or call a disability advocate if you do not have time to help properly.

# Electronic Visit Verification

- Not something we chose in this state
- Soft implementation until January but then it will effect payment
- What is and is not working?
- If you have a provider that is not using it ask them why





# 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](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/evv)

# New Assessment Tool Process



## What it is

- New comprehensive tool to assess people in ALL waivers
- Some parts mandatory for eligibility (level of care) and other parts optional (employment)
- Assess eligibility, then turn info into care plan
- Assign resources in transparent way
- Person-centered

## Changes

- No more different tools for different waivers
- No more SIS
- No more secret scoring and processes that people do not understand
- Everyone gets opportunity to have full assessment and reassessment on person centered basis
- Not one size fits all

# So what now?

## Concerns of the disability community

- Are case managers really trained on the tool?
- Are sample cases representative?
- What do the levels mean?
- How do we address the underlying issue which is insufficient resources?
- Is there a hidden agenda?

# 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.

# Change is scary...information is control

[www.colorado.gov/hcpf/colorados-ltss-assessment-and-support-plan](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/colorados-ltss-assessment-and-support-plan)



# What Now?

- There are [MANY stakeholder groups](#), committees, work groups, etc.
- You can be involved in reimagining a better system?
- If you are supporting someone who has lost a day program use this time to see if they can virtually do some job shadowing.
- Learn about [Medicaid rules](#) and help identify what we should push to change.
- Be a problem solver.
- Learn about the [state budget process](#) and how it works.
- We will need to figure out how to do some of what we wanted with no new money. If we want to shift money we will need to get legislative authority to do so.
- Read or listen to the book [Being Heumann by Judith Heumann](#)

# 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](https://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](https://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

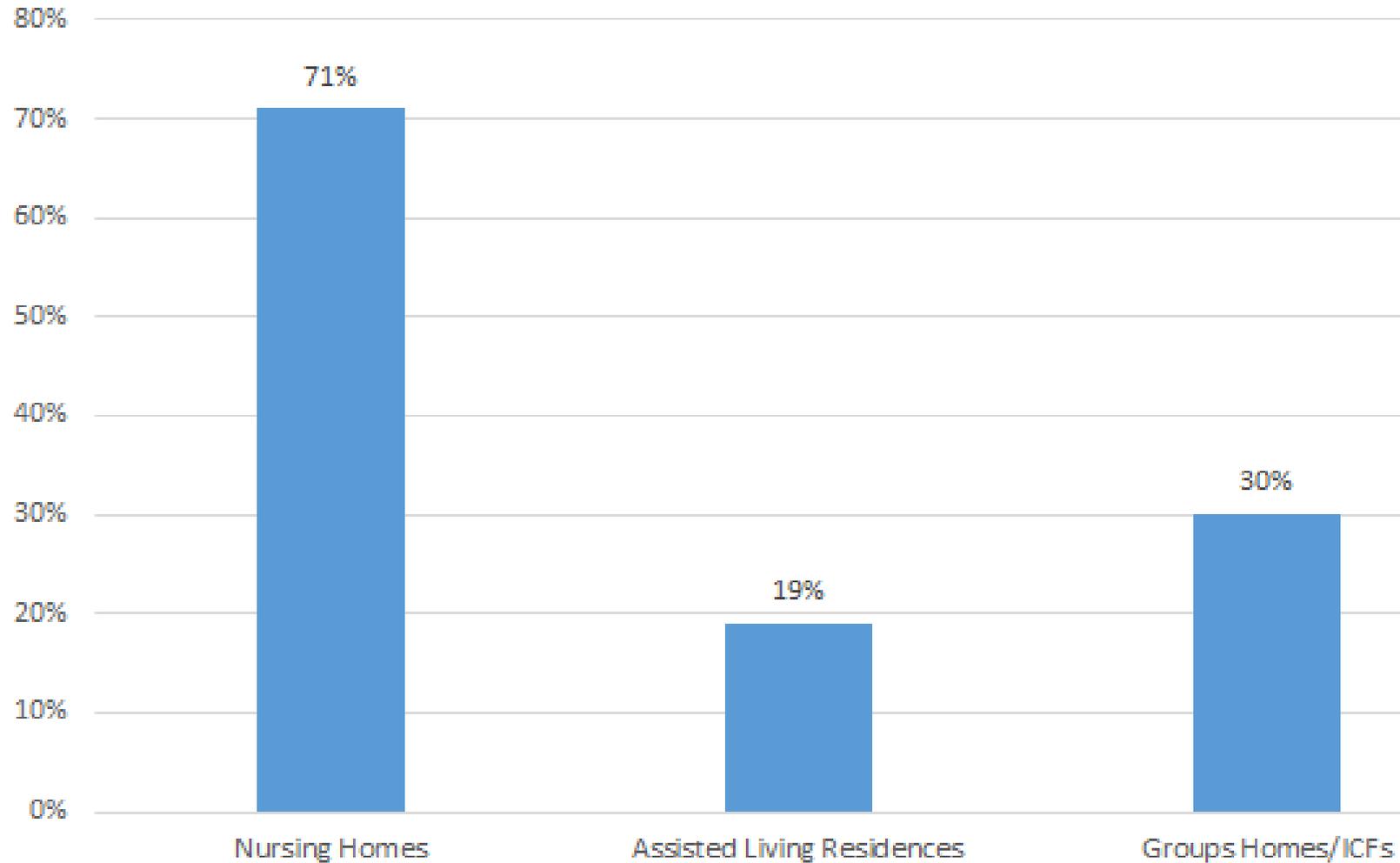
## Non-participation

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

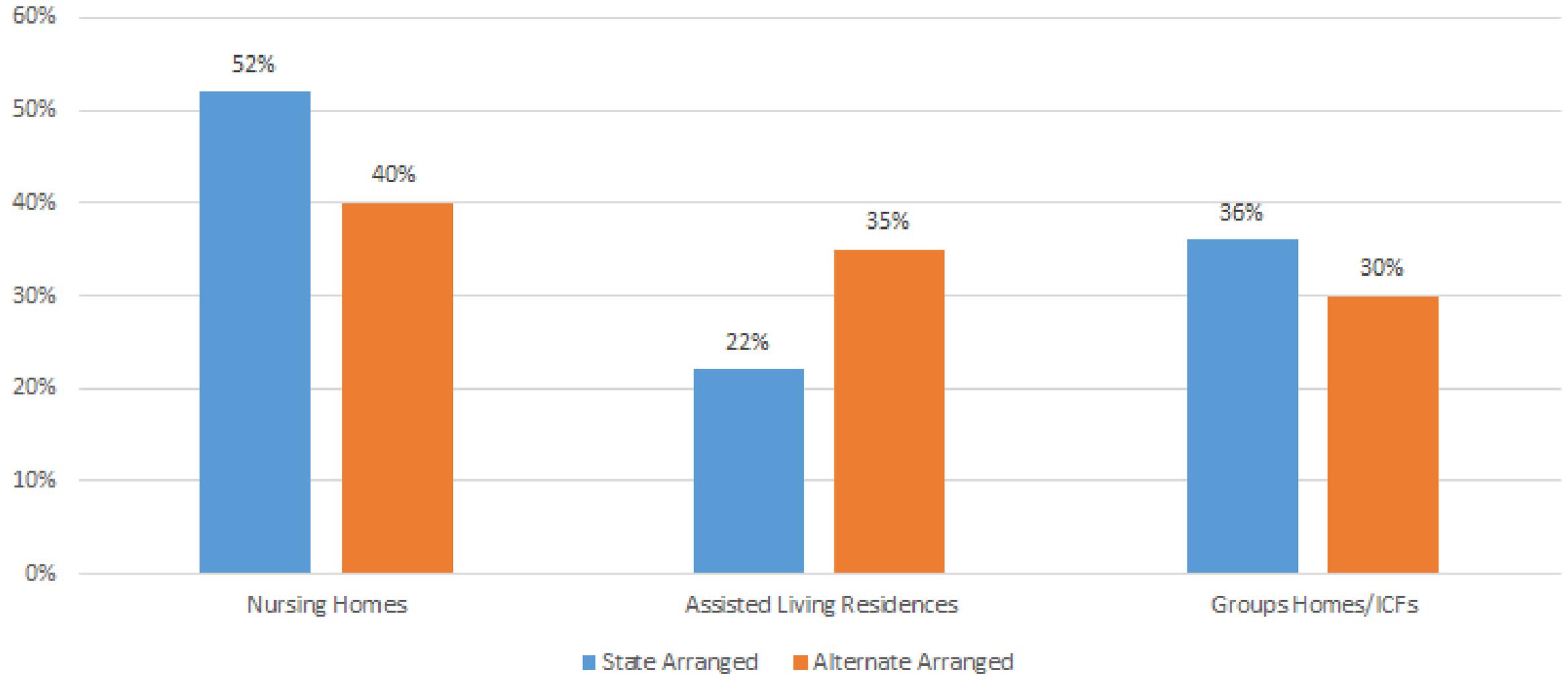
## # Facilities Without PPE for 7 Days

- 2 NHs
- 1 ALR
- 0 GHs/ICFs

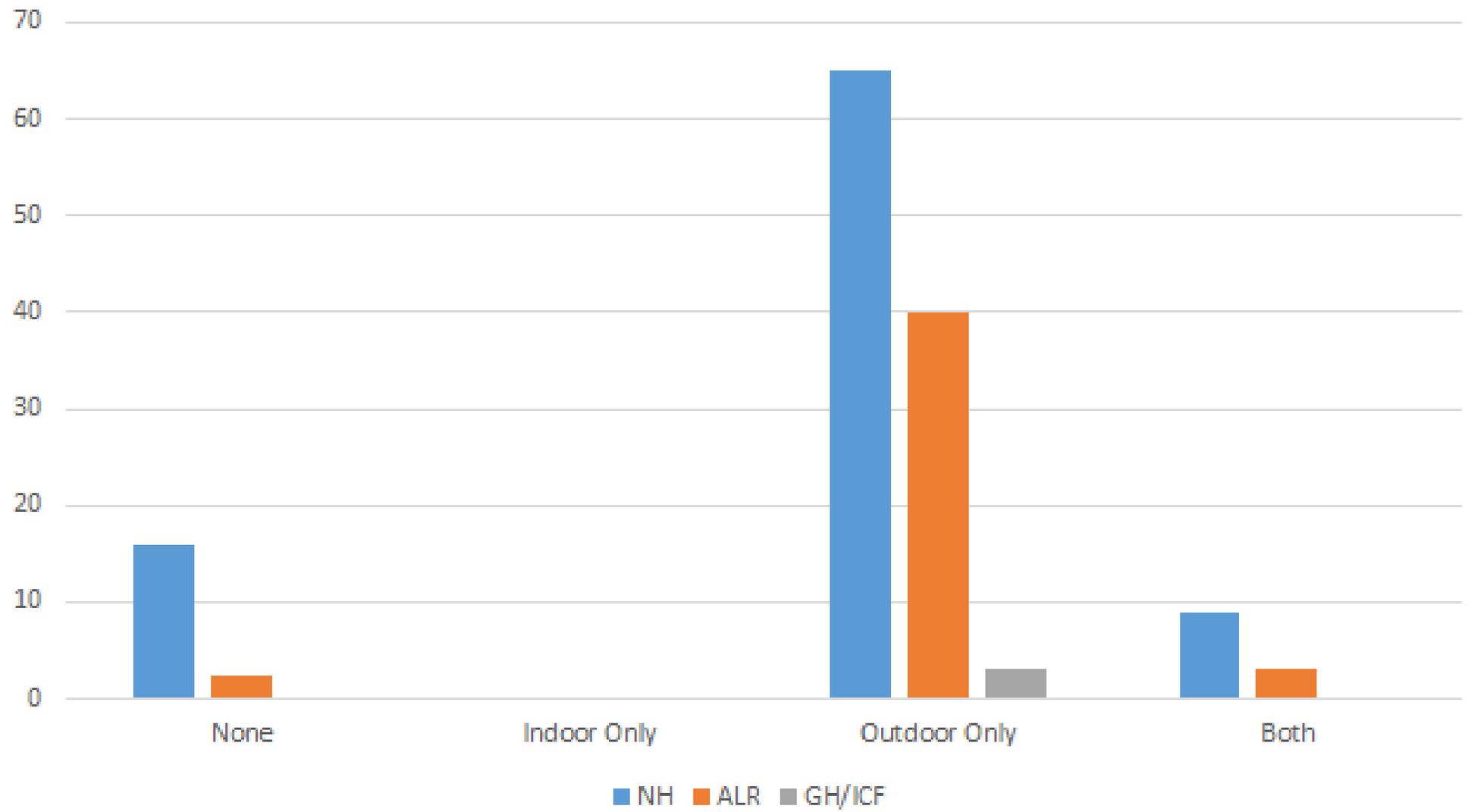
## Facilities Testing Everyone (as of 10/7/2020)



## 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](http://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](#)

# 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](#)

# 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](http://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](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response)

*Email us*

[HCPF\\_HCBS\\_Questions@state.co.us](mailto:HCPF_HCBS_Questions@state.co.us)

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# 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](http://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](#)

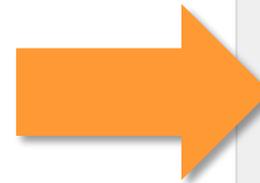
+ [Webinar Recordings and Materials](#)

+ [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](mailto:sadie.martinez@state.co.us)

# More Information



[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)



[www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page)



[covid19.colorado.gov](http://covid19.colorado.gov)



Local Public Health Agencies

[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency)



[www.colorado.gov/hcpf/COVID](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/COVID)



Residential Care Strike Team -  
[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/residential-care-strike-team](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/residential-care-strike-team)

# 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](http://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!