

# COVID-19 Updates

Colorado Department of  
Health Care Policy & Financing

May 15, 2020

# Overview

## Budget Update

- Bonnie Silva, Office of Community Living Director, HCPF

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

- Greg Schlosser, Branch Chief, CDPHE

## New Guidance

## Nursing Facility Supplemental Payment Provider Resources

- Bonnie Silva, Office of Community Living Director, HCPF
- Riley De Valois, Provider Fee Analyst, HCPF

# Budget Timing and Outcomes

- Difficult budget decisions in process.
- May 6, JBC Analyst reviewed possible HCPF budget cuts. JBC approved approximately \$201M TF, \$102M GF HCPF reductions. JBC tabled items totaling over \$270M TF.
- May 11 - OSPB/Administration presented "comebacks" to JBC
- May 12 - Updated from March, revenue forecast shortfall increased from \$3.2B to \$3.4B for 2020-2021 FY. Increases to \$4.9B for FY 2021-2022
- May 14 - JBC Analyst presented cuts against to JBC. Additional \$67M TF, \$19M GF cuts approved. Approximately \$180 million TF in additional cuts tabled, with action expected later this week or early next week.
- JBC asked the Department to come back with additional cut options.
- Budget cut process will likely be iterative.

# Examples of 5/14 JBC Budget Decisions

- Reduced dental benefit from \$1500 to \$1000
- Approved PACE 2.37% rate cut, as an alternative to PACE enrollee freeze
- Delayed Inpatient Residential SUD benefit 6 months
- Rejected add'l HCPF member service & compliance staff (44%+ mbr growth)
- Tabled hospital rate cut. Comeback due COB Monday (CHA collaboration)

# Budget Further Timeline

- General Assembly expected to reconvene and start on the Long Bill in the House the week of May 25
- Budget must be passed and signed into law by June 30
- As they become available, HCPF will post our projections, fact sheets and overviews on [Colorado.gov/hcpf/legislator-resource-center](https://colorado.gov/hcpf/legislator-resource-center)
- JBC Documents: <http://leg.colorado.gov/content/budget>
- JBC Schedule: [http://leg.colorado.gov/jbc\\_schedule](http://leg.colorado.gov/jbc_schedule)
- JBC Audio: <http://leg.colorado.gov/committee/granicus/929571>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

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# Additional Federal \$'s Needed for States

## Western States Pact Urges \$1 trillion in Federal Support for States and Cities Responding to COVID-19 Pandemic

*Gov. Polis, Democratic legislative leaders join call for support*

**DENVER** - In a letter to Congressional leadership, governors and legislative leaders from five western states requested \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to preserve core government services like public health, public safety and public education, and help people get back to work.

“There is no time to waste and we can overcome the widespread economic pain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, together. I urge Congress to quickly take up and pass a new stimulus package to provide relief to Colorado’s communities hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. A robust, flexible federal response to this pandemic is critical to our state’s recovery and our and country as a whole,” said Gov. Polis.

“Without additional flexible aid from the federal government, our state will be forced to make the deepest budget cuts we have ever seen. Congress must help our communities, both big and small, avoid the devastating impacts of these cuts,” said Speaker Becker, D-Boulder. “These cuts would hurt vulnerable populations and further impact our already underfunded schools and institutions of higher education, which still haven’t recovered from the last recession. We are going to prioritize education and critical public health and safety programs as we work to ease how painful this budget may be, but without federal support there’s only so much we can do.”

“States all over the country have been devastated by coronavirus with thousands of lives lost and millions suffering from unemployment. But these are just the immediate impacts. The longer, more insidious effects of the pandemic will ripple out for years to come, as state infrastructure crumbles from lack of funding,” said Senate President Leroy Garcia, D-Pueblo. “We need the Federal Government to step up and provide immediate relief to state and local governments or millions more will suffer as essential services are eroded. Coloradans are deeply resilient people, and I know that with the right help we can get through this together.”





**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Update

- State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
- Survey Priorities
- Isolation Plan Submissions
- [HEMSD COVID-19 Blog](#)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

# New Guidance Issued



OM 20-055

OM 20-056

OM 20-057

OM 20-059

IM 20-021

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 20-055

## TITLE: COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR NEMT PROVIDERS

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to those who may be at increased risk, the Department is implementing temporary requirements for NEMT providers:

- NEMT **drivers shall wear face coverings** that meet the recommendations set forth by the CDC.
- NEMT rides shall be limited to **one member per vehicle**. An exception to this requirement exists if the **member requires an escort**.
- NEMT Drivers **shall use disinfectant wipes** on areas and objects in the vehicle that may have come into contact by previous riders prior to picking up any subsequent ride.
- NEMT Drivers **shall follow basic hygienic steps** - washing hands, avoiding close contact with those who are sick, avoid face touching, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, using hand sanitizer when necessary.
  - Have tissues and hand sanitizer available in vehicles for passengers and drivers

[Link: OM 20-055](#)

# OM 20-056

## TITLE: TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT-TRANSITION COORDINATION (TCM-TC) GUIDANCE FOR TRANSITION COORDINATION ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Provides guidance, specific to Targeted Case Management - Transition Coordination (TCM-TC), on the federal requirement that states maintain program eligibility for all members enrolled on March 18, 2020 through the end of the month in which the public health emergency ends
- Outlines communication and signature modality adjustments and administrative timelines
- Overview of housing voucher process and housing navigation collaborative activities
- Lists criteria for determining if a discharge can occur and steps for implementing a discharge
- Summarizes post-discharge monitoring requirements

[Link: OM 20-056](#)

# OM 20-057

## TITLE: DAY PROGRAM SERVICE OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 SAFER AT HOME ORDER

Informs Day Program Service Providers and Case Management Agencies of required provisions in the resumption of Day Program Services in a congregate setting. Applies to:

- Adult Day Services
  - Day Habilitation
  - Day Treatment for the Brain Injury Waiver
  - Prevocational Services
  - Supported Employment - Group
- Effective May 11, 2020, Day Program providers may begin to provide services in their setting for those members who are not considered part of the “Vulnerable Population” defined in the Safer at Home order
    - Must comply with Local Ordinances and Variances, the Safer at Home Order, and the following requirements on the following slide

*It should be noted that Day Program Services are not deemed an “Essential Activity” per the Safer-at-Home order*

[Link: OM 20-057](#)

# OM 20-059

## TITLE: OPERATIONAL MEMO FOR PROVIDER-OWNED RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS REGARDING THE HANDLING OF FEDERAL COVID-19 STIMULUS PAYMENTS

- ❖ The economic stimulus is considered an advance payment of a refundable federal tax credit and is **not countable income** for the purposes LTC/HCBS Medicaid eligibility and will not be a countable resource for 12 months

### Impacts on Patient Payments

#### *SNFs and ICF-IIDs:*

- Stimulus payments shall not be considered in calculating patient payments.
- Process for 5615s outlined in Memo

#### *ACF and SLP:*

- Stimulus payments shall not be considered in calculating Post Eligibility Treatment of Income (PETI) cost allocations.

#### *GRSS and IRSS—Host Home:*

- Stimulus payments shall not be considered in provider reimbursement calculations; all funds shall go directly to the resident or guardian, based on current processes in place for personal needs accounts.
  - Additional detail around impact on personal needs accounts outlined in Memo

[Link: OM 20-059](#)

# IM 20-021

TITLE: INFORMATIONAL MEMO FOR SNFS REGARDING CMP USAGE FOR COMMUNICATION DEVICES

- Recognizing that visitor restrictions may be difficult for residents and families, CMS has developed this **application template** for requests for the use of **Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment funds** to provide residents with **adaptive communicative technologies**.
- **All licensed nursing facilities** may apply.
- The Nursing Facility Innovations Grant Board will be accepting and screening applications as they are received.
- [Criteria, application and instructions may be found here.](#)
- Prior to filling out the application, **you will need to download and save it to your desktop.**
- Completed applications can be submitted to [cdphe\\_nhib\\_grants@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_nhib_grants@state.co.us)

[Link: IM 20-021](#)

# Previous Guidance

## Case Management Agencies

### Operational Changes

- [OM 20-049](#)
- [OM 20-027](#)
- [OM 20-034](#)
- [OM 20-037](#)
- [OM 20-045](#)

### PASRR Changes

- [OM 20-043](#)

### Critical Incident Reporting for COVID-19

- [OM 20-044](#)

### Level of Care Changes

- [OM 20-053](#)

## Facilities and PACE

### Infection Control And Prevention of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (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](#)

## HCBS Providers

### Long-term Care and Congregate Settings

- [OM 20-017](#)

### 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](#)

### Non-medical Transportation

- [OM 20-031](#)

### Residential Guidance

- [OM 20-035](#)

### Host Home Inspections

- [OM 20-036](#)

### Retainer Payments

- [OM 20-039](#)

### CDASS Sick Time

- [OM 20-047](#)

### Changes to Benefits & Services Rates (Table)

- [OM 20-048](#)

### Flexibility in Hiring

- [IM 20-019](#)

All COVID-19 and LTSS 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)

# COVID Supplemental Payment

- In lieu of 8% per diem rate increase
- \$14.6 million in aggregate across all facilities
- Based on facility's portion of paid Medicaid FFS days to total paid Medicaid FFS days for all facilities from CY2019
- Letters describing each facility's payment will be emailed today or Monday

# COVID Supplemental Payment, cont.

- Transaction Date for COVID Supplemental Payment
  - Friday, May 22, 2020
  - Automatically deposited for those facilities with EFT authorizations on file with the Department
    - Too late to switch to EFT as the transactions have already started processing
  - Checks mailed on Tuesday May 19, 2020



# COVID Supplemental Payment, cont.

- Medicaid FFS Billing
  - No changes, continue to bill the same iC reimbursement rate from the SFY 2019-20 Nursing Facility Provider Fee Program Overview letter dated July 10, 2019

# Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes

[CMS Issued Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate  
COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes](#)

Includes examples and best practices in areas like cleaning/disinfecting, testing, cohorting, etc.

# Accessing the New Connect to Care Job Website

*In order to ensure that only Colorado licensed residential care settings are able to access the site, HCPF and ADvancing States require the following steps in order to log in:*

1. Log into the CDPHE provider portal and find the message about the Connect to Care Jobs website, which was sent on Friday, May 8th
2. In the message, click on the SurveyMonkey link to **pre-register**
3. You will be asked to provide your facility's name, license number, and contact information including name, phone number, and email address
4. Within approximately one business day of completing the survey, an email will be sent to the email address you provided inviting you to **register** on the site

*\*The email address you provided in the pre-registration process is the email that must be used when you register\**

At this time, only licensed nursing homes, assisted living residences, and other residential care settings will be able to access the site. In future phases, the site will be made available to hospitals, home care and home health agencies, and other health care providers.

# EMResource & Point-in-time CDPHE Portal Survey

EMResource is long-term goal for tracking PPE needs and bed capacity for NFs and ALRs across the state

- Voluntary
- Crucial for efficient distribution of supplies and COVID-related strategy for the State
- Training happening now for NFs and ALRs soon

Point-in-time SurveyMonkey through CDPHE portal intended to be stopgap until EMResource is up and running

- Voluntary
- Effort to mirror question format to minimize impact on facility
- New survey link will be sent out weekly through portal on Thursday/Friday until EMResource is established



# 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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# 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)

# 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)



# Next Steps

# Thank You!