

COVID-19 Updates

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

April 3, 2020

Overview

Executive Director Update

- Kim Bimestefer

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) Update

- Greg Schlosser, Branch Chief

Update on COVID-19 Status in Colorado

- Dr. Lisa Latts, Chief Medical Officer

Update from Colorado Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC)

- Julie Reiskin, Executive Director

Update of Department Guidance Issued

- Bonnie Silva, Office of Community Living Director

Questions/Feedback

- Responses to top question of last week and opportunity for new questions and answers

Care Access, Health, Safety, Coverage

- Pandemic that drives economic downturn - impact to Medicaid/CHIP
- Staying in Lock Step with CDPHE Care Guidance
- Special communications, op memos protecting most vulnerable members
- Telemedicine & Reducing Face-to-Face Requirements Where Appropriate
- Emergency Rulemaking (Rx and Telemedicine)
- Requesting Flexibility from Federal Government
- MOE - Individuals eligible for Medicaid as of March 18th will stay enrolled
- FMAP 6.2 pt increase in Families First Coronavirus Response Act to States
- CARES Act/Stimulus funding goes to Providers

Executive Director Update

Federal Negotiations

- Appendix K Amendment Approved!
- 1135 Waiver- Partially Approved!
- 1115 Waiver- In Process
- Emergency State Plan- In Process

[Emergency Waiver Overview](#)

Guidance/Communications

- Issued 27 Communications- *giving information and guidance on COVID-19*
- Hosted 20 Webinars & Engagements

Current Milestones

- Continue negotiations with CMS
- Review CMS approvals against budget and system requirements
- Tough choices. Temporary Rules. Operationalize. Implement.
- Build Capacity to Serve More
- Active stakeholder communications

[Colorado.gov/hcpf/covid](https://colorado.gov/hcpf/covid) and on
www.colorado.gov/hcpf/covid-19-provider-information

for members, providers & case managers, county & eligibility partners

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado: State & National Resources

COVID-19

Please check this page frequently for updates on COVID-19. This is a new and changing situation. We have organized the information by audience below to help you find what you need quickly. We will update our information as the situation changes and we learn more.

For Health First Colorado
(Colorado's Medicaid Program)
and Child Health Plan *Plus*
(CHP+) Members

For Providers and Case
Managers

For County and Eligibility
Partners

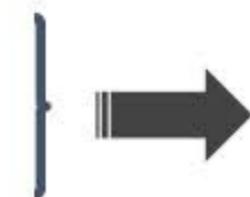
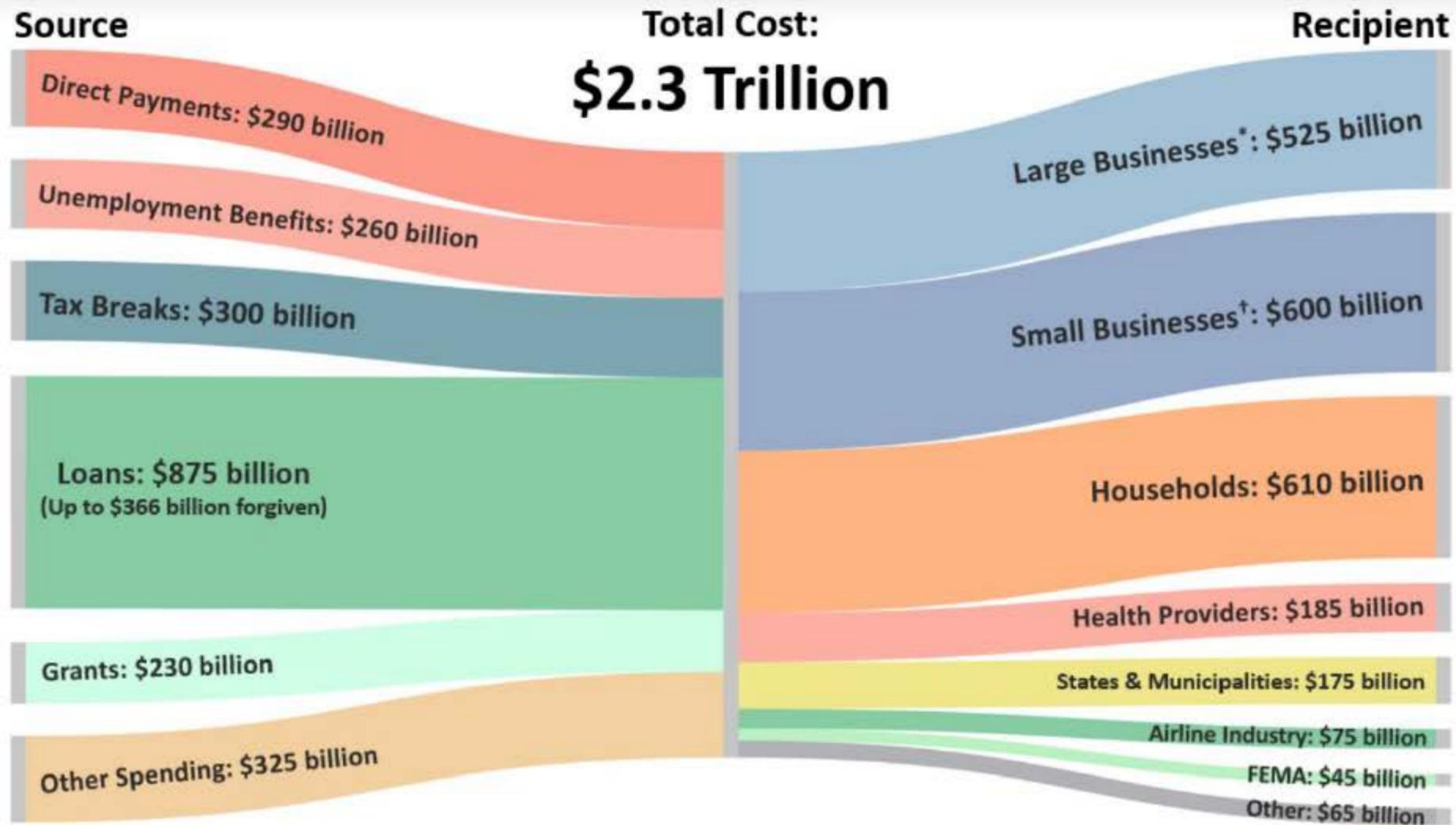
- General Resources
- Operational, Policy & Info Memos
- Billing Information
- Provider & Case Manager Resource

Priority: Provider/Member Service

- ACA provided ramp-up time; COVID19 Pandemic doesn't provide that time
- 90% Call Staff transitioned to Work from Home
- Provider: ASA <1 minute. Abandon Rate <3%
- Member: ASA <4 minutes. Abandon Rate <1%
- We are adding staff now
- Claims are still paying promptly
- No systemic challenges
- Continue system changes programming



A Visualization of the CARES Act



Source: Legislative Offices, JCT, bill text, CRFB estimates.

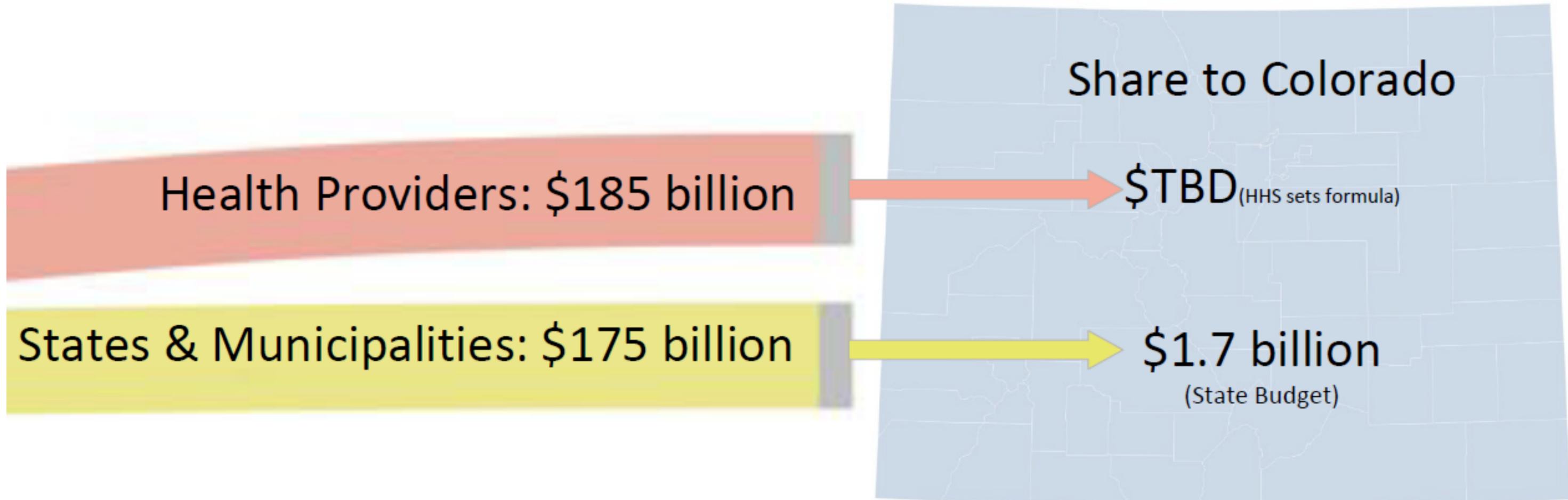
† This includes \$170 billion of tax cuts for businesses other than corporations, some of which are large companies.

* This includes \$454 billion to set up a \$4.5 trillion Fed facility which could support state and local governments as well as companies.

CRFB.org



Health Providers getting direct support



Update



COLORADO
**Department of Public
Health & Environment**

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

State Sourced Supplies

2,500,000

N95 Masks

1,000,000

Surgical Masks

250,000

Gowns

25,000

Face Shields

1,500,000

Gloves

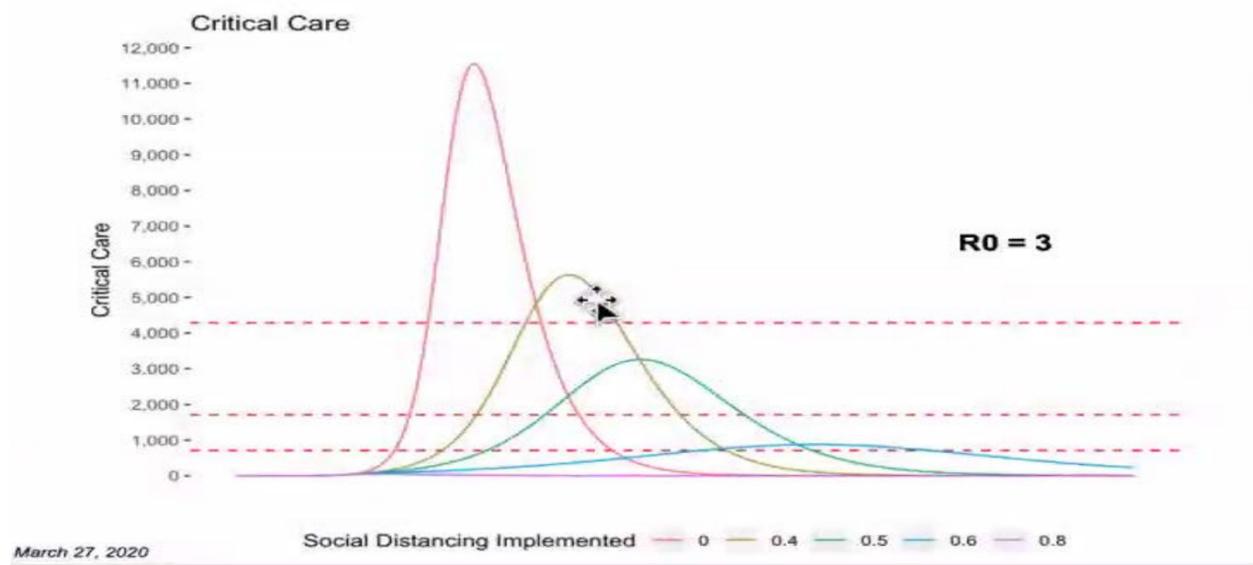
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Ventilators

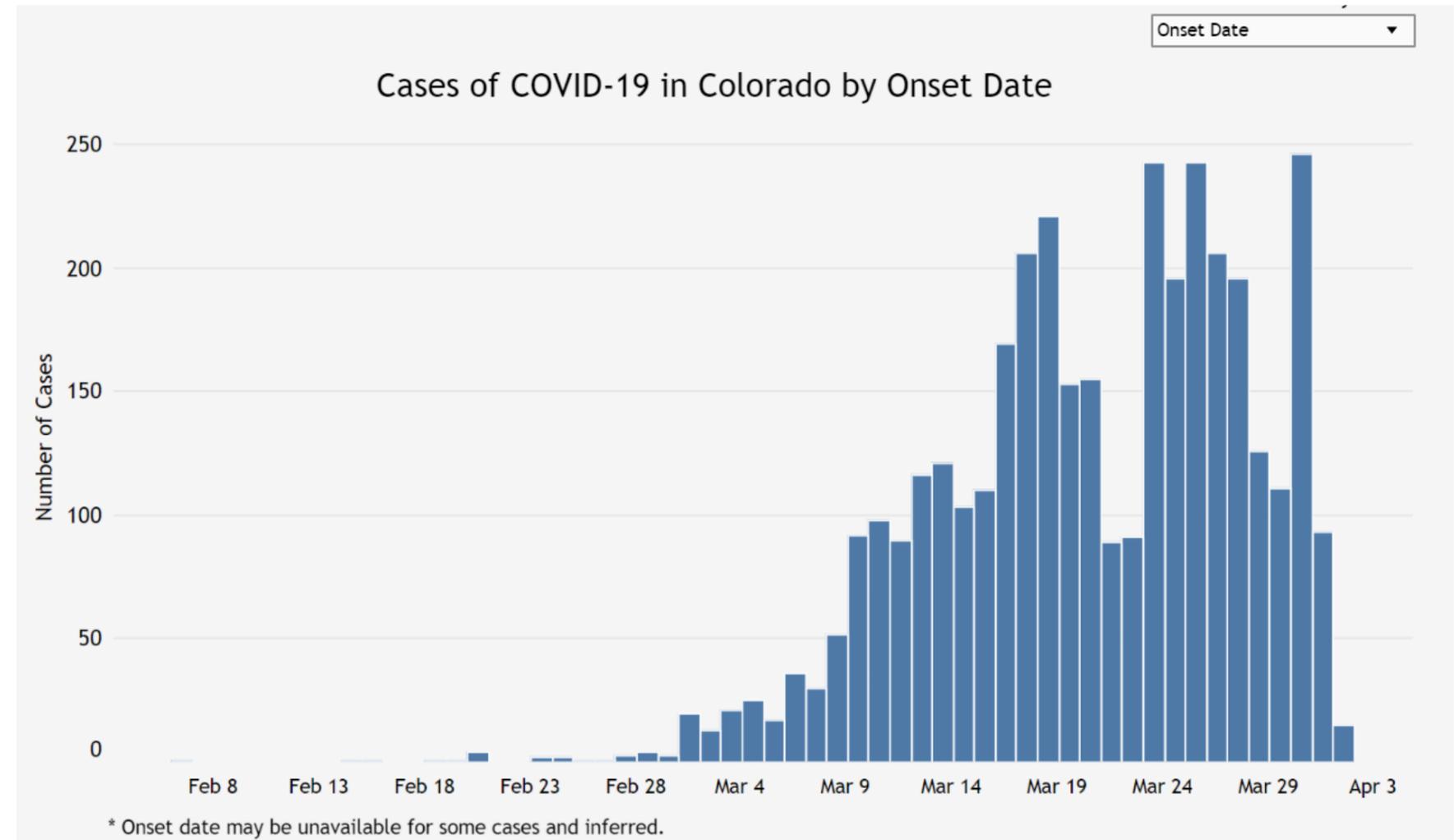
COVID-19 in Colorado

- 3,728 cases
- 710 hospitalized
- Peak resource use estimated to be April 17

COVID-19 Projections for Colorado



<https://covid19.healthdata.org/projections>



Ongoing/Upcoming Clinical Trials

Denver Health

- NIAID: Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial (ACTT)

UCH

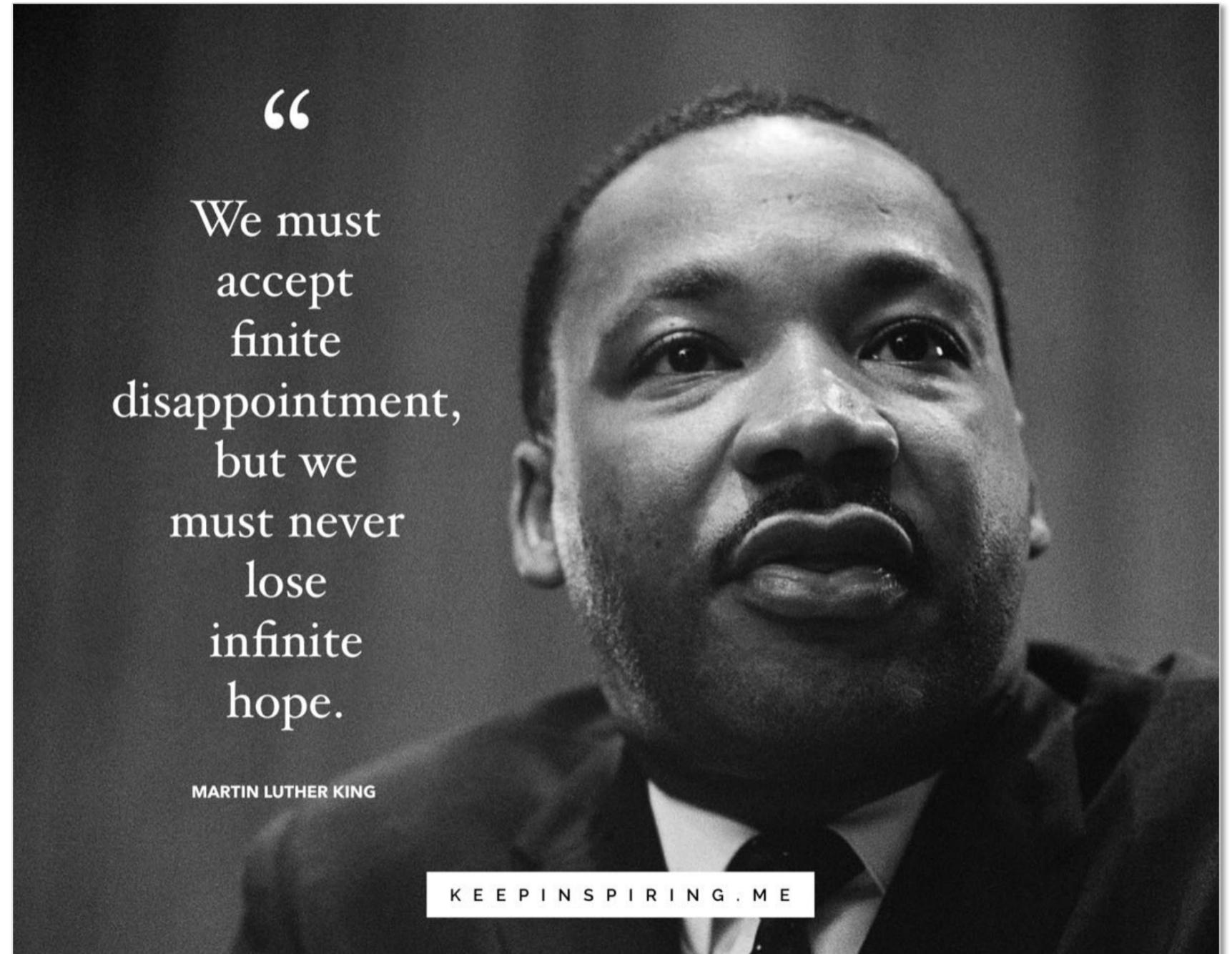
- Regeneron: An Adaptive Phase 2/3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study Assessing Efficacy and Safety of Sarilumab for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19
- Gilead: A Phase 3 Randomized Study to Evaluate the Safety and Antiviral Activity of Remdesivir (GS-5734TM) in Participants with Severe COVID-19
- Gilead: A Phase 3 Randomized Study to Evaluate the Safety and Antiviral Activity of Remdesivir (GS-5734TM) in Participants with Mild COVID-19
- NHLBI (PETAL): Hydroxychloroquine for the Early Treatment of COVID-19 in Hospitalized Adults: A Multicenter Randomized Clinical Trial
- NIAID (ACTG): A Randomized, Controlled, Open-Label, Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and Azithromycin versus Vitamin C to Prevent Hospitalization and Death in Persons with COVID-19



- Statewide organization run by and for people with all types of disabilities
- We do disability rights advocacy using a social justice lens
- We have agreed to coordinate communication between our community (not just CCDC members but the whole disability community) and HCPF to help with overwhelm. #DoingMyPartCO
- Email covid@ccdconline.org
- Website www.ccdconline.org/covid-19-resources-links-and-information/

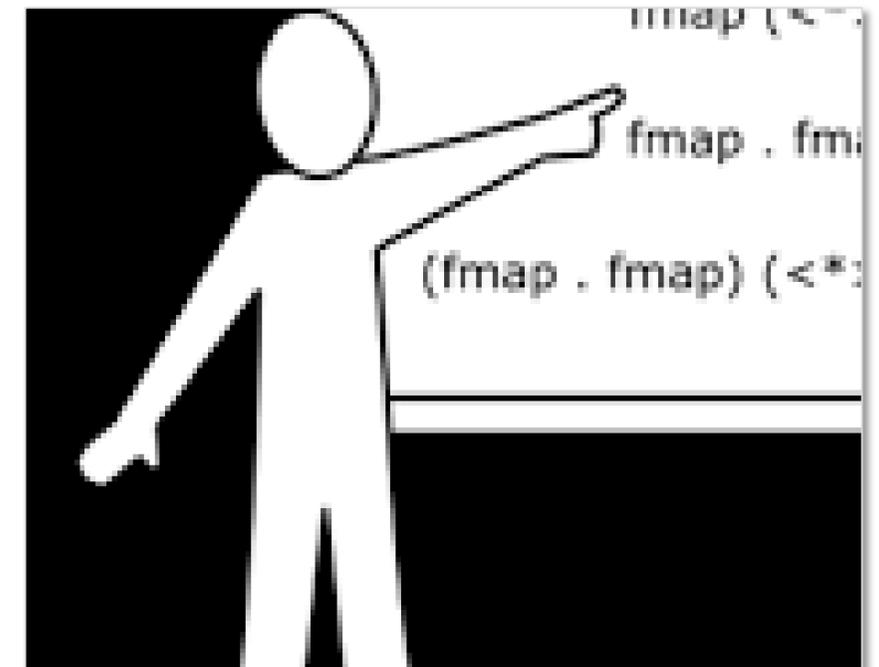
Major concerns already addressed

- No one gets kicked off Medicaid during the crisis
- Case managers can do remote visits, extended time for redetermination paperwork,
- Ability to start Medicaid using self-attestation
- Some people getting other HCBS services via telemedicine
- Clarity that personal care/home health are essential
- CDPHE got CCDC 2500 Masks to distribute



What is an FMAP?

- Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)
- Congress increased our federal match (FMAP) by 6.2 pts, adjusting it to 56.2% from 50%
- 6.2 pts for Colorado is valued at \$119M/qt
- The increase in funding will help us cover the increase in Medicaid membership (more is needed)
- Another way to look at this \$\$: for every Federal dollar we spent, the state budget matches 44 cents
- There have been 3 federal stimulus bills.
- A 4th stimulus bill is in the works. Seeking increased funding for states, FMAP, etc.



Previous Guidance

Case Management Agencies

Operational Changes

- [OM 20-018](#)
- [OM 20-019](#)

PASRR Changes

- [IM 20-015](#)

Critical Incident Reporting for COVID-19

- [OM 20-022](#)

Facilities and PACE

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

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

HCBS Providers

Long-term Care and Congregate Settings

- [OM 20-017](#)

Day Program Service Providers

- [IM 20-017](#)

HCBS Therapy Services

- [OM 20-020](#)

Guidance for Program Closures Due to COVID-19

- [OM 20-021](#)

Guidance for Class B Providers

- [OM 20-023](#)

Changes to Benefits & Services (Table)

- [OM 20-024](#)

Telemedicine

- [Temporary Policy](#)

All COVID-19 related memos can be found here:

www.colorado.gov/hcpf/covid-19-provider-information

New Guidance Issued



[OM 20-027](#)

[OM 20-030](#)

[OM 20-031](#)

[OM 20-032](#)

All COVID-19 related Memos can be found here: www.colorado.gov/hcpf/covid-19-provider-information

OM 20-027

TITLE: CHANGES TO SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBER PAPERWORK IN RESPONSE TO COVID19 FOR CASE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

- Case managers shall use an **electronic signature** for the following forms **requiring a member or legal guardian signature**
 - Home and Community Based Service Statement of Agreement
 - ULTC-100.2 Functional Eligibility Intake Form
 - State Supported Living Services Support Plan
 - Children's Extensive Supports (CES) Application Signature Page
 - Authorized Representative Screening Questionnaire (CDASS)
 - Authorized Representative Designation (CDASS)
 - Client or Authorized Representative Responsibilities (CDASS)

Forms Available Here:

- www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-case-management-tools
- consumerdirectco.com/client-cdass-forms/

[Link: OM 20-027](#)

OM 20-030

TITLE: PASRR COVID-19 UPDATE 2

- Level Is and Level IIs suspended for 30 days for new admissions.
- After 30 days, new admissions for individuals with SMI or IDD shall receive a Resident Review
- New Level Is and Level IIs not required for transfers between nursing facilities
- During transfer, if the receiving facility is not certain whether a Level I had been conducted at the resident's previous facility, a Level I may be conducted by the admitting facility as part of the admission. A Resident Review should follow a positive Level I screen.
- For current residents, Level II evaluations, Resident Reviews and Status Changes, should be completed remotely, using telehealth or other technological means.
- SEPs will not need a PASRR authorization in order to issue a certification for nursing facility placement.

[Link: OM 20-030](#)

OM 20-031

TITLE: OPERATIONAL CHANGES TO THE HCBS NONMEDICAL TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT FOR COVID-19

- Members shall only utilize NMT to access essential services and needs, such as the grocery store, pharmacy, or bank. Members should continue to utilize the [Non-Emergent Medical Transportation \(NEMT\)](#) benefit to attend essential medical appointments.
- Rides shall only be used by individuals who do not have a temperature greater than 100.0 and are not coughing or exhibiting other respiratory symptoms.
- NMT rides shall be limited to one member per vehicle.
- Providers shall use disinfectant wipes and other basic hygiene steps to mitigate risk to themselves and other members.

[Link: OM 20-031](#)

OM 20-032

TITLE: TELEMEDICINE IN NURSING FACILITIES, ALTERNATIVE CARE FACILITIES, AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR COVID-19

- Any of the following Health First Colorado covered services that are within the scope of a provider's practice and training may be provided via telemedicine, when appropriate:
 - Physician Services
 - Physical Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Hospice

require an interactive audiovisual connection to the member; they cannot be provided using telephone only or live chat.

[Link: OM 20-032](#)

Top Question Topics Disability Community

Eligibility

Services

Access to
Care

HIPAA

Eligibility for Members

My redetermination has not gone through and I am worried about not getting my services.

The Department will be implementing continuous eligibility on Sunday, April 5 to lock in members existing Medicaid eligibility and waiver program coding from March 18 through the end of the pandemic. Case managers will be able to approve the Prior Authorization Requests (PARs) without the redetermination.

Services

If I have more Day Program units on my PAR, can I use those units for another service?

Yes. Work with your Case Manager to change your benefits.

Note that if you change your benefits to better meet your needs right now, the Day Program provider will not be able to bill retainer payments. You are in control of whether or not your day program providers can bill retainer payments.

Access to Care

What steps can I take if I am having trouble contacting my Primary Care Provider (PCP) or having difficulty filling a prescription?

Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) can help you access your primary care provider or healthcare services. You can reach out directly to the RAEs to help you get timely care that you need. Your RAE is based on where your Primary Care Provider operates. To find your RAE go to <https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/health-first-colorado-regional-organizations/> or call 1-888-367-6557. You can also call the Nurse Advice Line 24/7 at 1-800-283-3221.

Access to Care

Is Medicaid helping the uninsured for COVID-19?

Yes. Starting Sunday, April 5 we will be providing coverage for COVID-19 testing to people who are not eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ and have indicated that they have been affected by COVID and need testing. (CMS denied our request to cover COVID-19 treatment, complications.)

A Special Enrollment Period for the Connect for Health Exchange is also being extended through April 30th.

The MOE also impacts the otherwise (potentially) uninsured.

HIPAA

Will there be any flexibility around releases of information for advocates to communicate with the Department during the pandemic?

No. The Department has not been granted any flexibility under any of the new HIPAA guidance, only providers.



New Questions?

Stay Engaged

**NEW* FAQ*

www.colorado.gov/hcpf/covid-19-provider-information

Email us

HCPF_HCBS_Questions@state.co.us

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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

Thank You!