



DATE: April 14, 2020

TO: Community Partners

FROM: Cathleen D. Bennett, President and CEO

RE: **Community Partners Coronavirus Update**

During this critical and challenging time for our community, the New Jersey Hospital Association is available to assist our healthcare providers and community partners with critical information and resources.

NJHA's Emergency Preparedness Team is working daily with our hospitals, health systems and post-acute providers to monitor the emerging issues on COVID-19. As community partners who share our commitment to the most vulnerable, we want to provide you this **Community Partners Coronavirus Update**.

State Update: Gov. Murphy signed several executive orders last week which address the following:

- Extend the public health emergency by 30 days (by law this declaration needs to be extended every 30 days.)
- New social distancing guidance includes the cessation of non-essential construction indefinitely beginning April 10 at 8 p.m.; a mandate for face coverings in essential retail stores and greater protection for workers in warehouses and manufacturing.
- The primary election date has been moved to July 7 from June 2.
- Close all state and county parks.

Department of Human Services Updates: NJ Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson has stated: "The essential health care coverage that NJ FamilyCare provides is always a critical lifeline for individuals and families in need, but never more so than at this moment. Our Department will continue to take action and pull all available levers to support the needs of our NJ FamilyCare members at this challenging time and help get those who may be newly eligible enrolled in coverage."

DHS has implemented the following policy actions in response to COVID-19:

- No one will lose their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage during the emergency, regardless of whether their enrollment was up for annual review. Ongoing eligibility will be reinstated for Medicaid and CHIP enrollees who may have automatically disenrolled at the end of March.
- No Medicaid or CHIP enrollee will have to pay copays for COVID testing or office visits related to COVID testing.

- No Medicaid or CHIP enrollee will have to pay premiums during the emergency.
- No Medicaid or CHIP enrollee will have to go through a prior authorization process for any hospitalization. Extended current authorizations for community-based services by 90 days.
- Using emergency flexibility to enable people to apply for NJ FamilyCare faster and easier, including self-attestation of income and resources.
- Making telehealth broadly available by phone and video so members can see their doctor and other healthcare providers from their home.
- Reaching out to high-risk members through their Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to coordinate services and update care plans as needed.
- Providing transportation with appropriate protocols for individuals with symptoms or with a positive test for COVID-19.

Testing Coverage: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [issued guidance yesterday to ensure Americans with private health insurance have coverage](#) of COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including antibody testing, at no cost. The guidance includes urgent care visits, emergency room visits and in-person or telehealth visits to the doctor's office that result in an order for or administration of a COVID-19 test. Covered COVID-19 tests include all FDA-authorized COVID-19 diagnostic tests, COVID-19 diagnostic tests that developers request authorization for on an emergency basis and COVID-19 diagnostic tests developed in and authorized by states. It also ensures that COVID-19 antibody testing will also be covered.

#SignUpNJ Campaign to Thank Healthcare Heroes and First Responders: NJHA has rolled out a social media engagement campaign, #SignUpNJ to help people make and post signs thanking our healthcare heroes and first responders. Display it in your window, yard or porch and also share it on any social media platform with the #SignUpNJ hashtag. Here's the twist: Incorporate a **blue heart** in your design to symbolize their courage and commitment. Below is a sample message:

- You may be stuck at home, but our #healthcareheroes are on the frontlines taking care of us. Let's show our support by creating and posting thank-you signs. Use a blue heart in your design to symbolize their courage and commitment. Don't forget the hashtag: #SignUpNJ

Schools may want to consider creating a friendly, virtual competition among their students by encouraging them to create a flyer or thank you note with the hashtag #SignUpNJ.

Please visit NJHA's ***How Can I Help?*** web page for additional information. <http://www.njha.com/Coronavirus/how-can-i-help/>

Donate supplies: NJHA is working with the state to coordinate inventories of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and medical equipment. Please visit NJHA's ***How Can I Help?*** web page for information about how to donate. <http://www.njha.com/Coronavirus/how-can-i-help/>

Physician Volunteers: DOH has created a streamlined process in the event that entire physician practices seek to volunteer for the COVID-19 response. Instead of using the individual form for volunteers on the

state's COVID-19 information hub, group practices make contact Thalia Sirjue at Thalia.Sirjue@doh.nj.gov.

Child Care for Essential Workers: The N.J. Office of Children and Families has published new resources for essential workers to use to identify certified childcare centers. A copy of the county-based child care centers spreadsheet that includes **all certified centers that will operate on and after April 1, 2020** is attached. The website is <https://www.childcarenj.gov/Parents/CCRR>. Essential workers are encouraged to phone their county childcare resource and referral agencies if additional information is needed.

Tuition Assistance for Child Care for Essential Workers: The Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development has announced a new Emergency Child Care Assistance (ECCA) Program to help support childcare costs when a parent or guardian is an essential employee, regardless of income (<https://www.childcarenj.gov/Emergency>). The Department notes that **if an essential worker currently receives child care assistance under the state's Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) or is eligible for it, child care costs will be fully covered by the state.**

To give you a sense of whether an individual would be eligible for the CCSP, the income maximum for a family of four is \$52,400 annually. To learn more about this program and assistance, please visit www.childcarenj.gov. **For all other families**, the ECCA program is available; the state will pay the following rates and **parents/guardians will be responsible for the difference between that and what the child care center is charging.** The state will pay the following per week.

State Rate for Emergency Care

Infant	\$450.35
Toddler	\$415.70
Preschool	\$415.70
School-Age	\$336.00
	Full-time weekly rate for one child

NJHA Resources and Support: As a reminder, NJHA has created a web page, <http://www.njha.com/coronavirus>, that compiles key guidance and other resources for the healthcare provider community to support their preparedness and response efforts. The **state's hotline number** for COVID-19 is 800-962-1253. Official guidance and other resources are available online from:

- NJHA <http://www.njha.com/coronavirus>
- NJHA *How Can I Help?* <http://www.njha.com/coronavirus/how-can-i-help/>
- NJDOH <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- NJDHS <https://nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html>
- CDC <https://www.dc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>