



MINUTES

State Medical Assistance & Services Advisory Council

Virtual Meeting

January 27, 2021: 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Google: <https://meet.google.com/bxb-dntm-wsg>

Call-In Number: 1-530-500-4073 Pin: 740412416#

1. 6:00 Call to Order

Jill Atkinson

2. Roll Call: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members Excused: Jasmine White

Members Present:

Jill Atkinson

Heather Gitchell

Peter McNally

Sarah Elliot

Josina Romero O'Connell

Margaret Tomcho

Kimberley Jackson

Janet Puglisi

J. Ron DeVries

Theresa Buxton

Leah Schulz

Katya Maurtison

Christopher Newman

Erika Alexander

Jasmine White

3. Introductions

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4. COVID 19 Vaccination Program/Vaccine Distribution

Dr. Peter Walsh

Phasing and priority tiers are the sole purview of CDPHE. More information:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/vaccine/vaccine-for-coloradans>

Vaccine Distribution Stats: according to CDPHE:

- Colorado is in phase: 1B
- Total Vaccine Providers: 588
- First Dose Administered: 372,000
- Second Doses Administered: 83,000
- Total Doses Administered: 454,900
- Provider Information:
 - **COVID-19 vaccines are a covered benefit for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) members.** Claims may be reimbursed for enrolled and qualified providers for administration of COVID-19

vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under their Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authority. Pharmacists enrolled with Health First Colorado may submit claims for reimbursement of the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to Health First Colorado members. Providers will receive vaccine products from the federal government at no cost. Only the administration fee associated with the vaccines may be reimbursed to providers.

- **Payment:** The Colorado interChange has been updated with the COVID-19 vaccination procedure codes. Providers may visit the [Provider Rates & Fee Schedule web page](#) and select Immunization Rates under the Immunization Rate Schedule drop-down section for updated rate information.

5. Provider Enrollment Updates

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Covid 19 Resources:

- CDPHE Resource Page
 - <https://covid19.colorado.gov>
- Immunization Billing Manual
 - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/immunizations-billing-manual>
- January 2021 Provider Bulletin
 - https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Bulletin_0121_B2100457.pdf
 - https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Bulletin_0121_B2100458.pdf
- November 2020 Provider Bulletin
 - https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/site/default/files/Bulletin_1120_B2000455.pdf
 - https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Bulletin_1220_B2000456_Updated.pdf
- All Department bulletins can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/provider-news>
- There was not a provider bulletin on 1/15. There was a newsletter for vaccines that we provided.
 - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Provider%20News%20%26%20Resources%20-%20January%2025%202021.pdf>

Information provided last week from President Biden:

Announced a “National Strategy for the COVID 19 Response and Pandemic and Preparedness outlining a centralized federal pandemic response.

Official [Executive Summary of this National Strategy](#) (23 pages)

Other executive actions:

- Coronavirus - E.O. "[Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain](#)" - Directs federal agencies to fill supply shortfalls using all available legal authorities to increase domestic manufacturing in four key sectors : Antigen and molecular-based testing; PPE and durable medical equipment ; Vaccine development and manufacturing ; and Therapeutics and key drugs.
- Coronavirus E.O. "[Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID -19 and Future HighConsequence Public Health Threats](#)" - Enhances federal agencies' collection, production, sharing, and analysis of coronavirus data and an equitable COVID-19 response.
- Coronavirus E.O. - "[Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers](#)" - Directs a national strategy for safely reopening schools, including requiring the



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Departments of Education and HHS to provide guidance.

- Coronavirus - Presidential Memorandum - "[Extend Federal Support to Governors 'Use of National Guard to Respond to COVID -19 and Increase Reimbursement and other Assistance Provided to States'](#)" - Directs FEMA to expand reimbursement to states to fully cover the cost for National Guard personnel and emergency supplies.
- Coronavirus E.O. "[Protecting Worker Health and Safety](#)" Directs the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue updated guidance on COVID -19 worker protections and other worker protections.
- Coronavirus E.O. "[Promoting COVID - 19 Safety In Domestic And International Travel!](#)" - Will require a recent negative COVID-19 test result prior to departure and quarantine on arrival, consistent with CDC guidelines.

Other executive actions:

- Coronavirus/Equity E.O. "[Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery](#)" - Establishes a high-level health equity task force to address COVID-19 related health and social inequities and help coordinate an equitable pandemic response and recovery.
- Coronavirus E.O. "[Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats](#)" - Establishes national covid testing board and public health workforce strategy.
- Coronavirus E.O. - "[Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19](#)" - Improve health care systems capacity, research and develop novel covid treatment therapies, evaluate Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers to promote insurance coverage for Covid treatments and clinical care.

6. Public Health Emergency Updates

Marceil Case

Public Health Emergency Expected to be Extended Through 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has communicated it will likely extend the Public Health Emergency (PHE) in 90 day increments through 2021. This is an update to the previous PHE extension that we communicated earlier this month, effective Jan. 21, 2021.

As a reminder, the PHE declaration allows our Department to:

- keep our emergency and waiver policies in place to reduce administrative burden on providers and increase access to care for members (such as telemedicine policies);
- extend the continuous coverage provision that keeps many Coloradans covered by Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) when they might otherwise be disenrolled;
- maintain the additional 6.2% of federal matching funding coming in to the state, which provides needed dollars during the fiscal crisis; and
- prohibit benefit reductions.

HHS has also committed to providing 60-days notice before the end of the PHE, in line with the Department's requests. We will continue to update you through our e-newsletters and PHE planning page at colorado.gov/hcpf/phe-planning. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and your partnership in serving our members.

7. Annual Meeting/Nomination of Officers

Kim Jackson – voted as new Chair of the State Medical Assistance Services Advisory Council
Dr. Chris Newman - voted as new Vice Chair of the State Medical Assistance Services Advisory Council

8. Round Robin

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting will be held on March 24th from 6pm-7:30pm

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify the Board Coordinator at 303-866-5965 or mary.hoatam-belnay@state.co.us or the 504/ADA Coordinator hcpf504ada@state.co.us at least one week prior to the meeting to make arrangements.