

COVID-19 Updates

Colorado Department of
Health Care Policy & Financing

June 26, 2020

Overview

The New Normal Highlights

Rates Update

New Guidance

Residential Strike Force Update

Resources

- Bonnie Silva, Office of Community Living Director, HCPF

Colorado's Unemployment Rate Increase

February: 2.5%

March: 5.2%

April: 11.3%

May: 10.2%

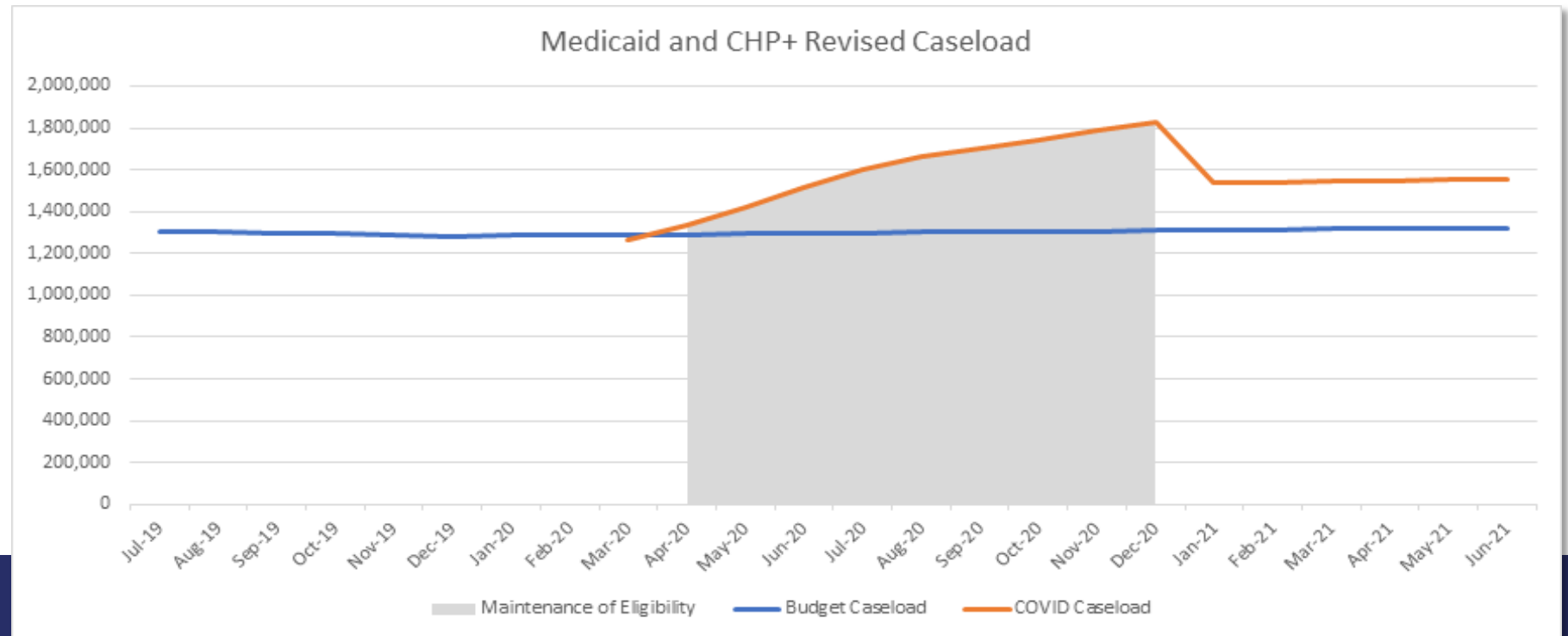
- Doubled Feb to March and March to April
- Highest since state began tracking in 1976
- Prior record was 8.9% during Great Recession in Fall 2010
- Compares to 14.7% nationally - highest since U.S began tracking in 1948

517,000 Coloradans filed initial unemployment claims since mid-March (through April)

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Medicaid, CHP+ Membership Surge Forecast

- Expecting a membership surge of more than 500,000 Coloradans this coming Fiscal Year
- 40%+ increase to the 1.3M members covered by Medicaid and CHP+ as of March 2020
- When the public health emergency period ends (presumed Dec. 31), we project an estimated disenrollment of more than 300,000 members who do not meet eligibility criteria.
- Net annual surge of 350,000 Coloradans



Types of emergencies

- Currently under all types
- Under HHS public health emergency, Section 1135 of the Social Security Act allows for Medicaid (and other) emergency waivers and amendments
- Changes last until termination of public health emergency, or for the length approved by CMS, or at discretion of Department
- FMAP bump is through Families First Legislation and ends the last calendar day in the quarter that the emergency ends

Adapted from [Cross-Disability Coalition \(CCDC\) slides on May 15](#)



Rates Discussion

- “Enhanced” COVID-19 rates end 6/30/2020
- Across the board rate decrease of 1% approved, goes into effect 7/1/2020
 - [Information Memo 20-027](#) has more information
 - Includes most fee-for-service HCBS rates and Targeted Case Management
- Denver City and County increase goes into effect 1/1/2021
 - Working on distinction. Understanding is it is for services provided within geographical area
 - Department concerned about overall impact to Metro area
 - Continue to work on workforce related issues

New “Normal” Idea Highlights

Case Management

Changes to Keep

- No PMIP
- Online/remote visits
- Not terming people because they can't find providers
- Electronic signatures

Challenging Changes

- Missing true connection through virtual visits
- Not being able to close cases for clients not responding to us or can't find them as it impacts caseload sizes
- Technology challenges for CMs and members
- Longer time to collect signatures makes it difficult to track

New “Normal” Idea Highlights Benefits and Services

Changes to Keep

- Delivery of services via Telehealth Methods
- Alternative settings for Day Programs
- 30-day exemption for PASRR
- 1:1 Day Program

Challenging Changes

- Only being to have one client in a vehicle at a time
- Home Health Providers are struggling with the 24/7 responsibility with minimal Day Program services
- Rates not being able to support 1:1 or smaller group programs

New Guidance Issued



[OM 20-063](#)

All COVID-19 related Memos can be found here: www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response

OM 20-063

TITLE: UPDATED OPERATIONAL CHANGES TO THE HCBS NON-MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NMT) BENEFIT FOR COVID-19

NMT rides shall be limited to:

- One member per 5-passenger vehicle
- Two members per 7-passenger vehicle
- Five members per 15-passenger van or bus
- If members reside in the same household, Group Home, or Assisted Living of 20 residents or less, they may ride in the same vehicle to activities or day programs without restriction

Providers shall use disinfectant wipes on areas and objects in the vehicle that may have come into contact by the previous rider prior to any subsequent ride.

- Providers shall follow these basic hygienic steps to mitigate the risk to themselves and members:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a household cleaning spray or wipe.
 - Disinfect vehicles daily.
 - Have tissues and hand sanitizer available in vehicles for drivers and/or passengers.

[Link: OM 20-063](#)

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](#)

Transition Coordination

- [OM 20-056](#)

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](#)

Stimulus Payments

- [OM 20-059](#)

Civil Money Penalty (CMP)

- [IM 20-021](#)

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](#)

Safer at Home for Day Programs

- [OM 20-057](#)

CC & SCC Clarifications

- [OM 20-060](#)

Additional Provider Relief Funds

- [IM 20-024](#)

All COVID-19 and LTSS related memos and FAQs can be found here:
www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response

Staffing Update

ConnectToCareJobs.com

- As of 6/23, 47 facilities and 502 job seekers registered
- Emails sent Tuesday to 145,476 individuals with active licenses (RN, LPN, CNA, PT, OT) and to all CNA training programs and nursing school contacts
- Emails sent yesterday to individuals on OnwardCO that had identified 'healthcare' as an area of interest

Rapid Response Staffing

- Identified 4 top potential solutions to pursue
 - Recruit recent nursing graduates who have not yet completed their exams
 - Explore utilizing Colorado Hospital Association's Colorado Staffing Collaborative
 - Explore developing a Home Care Agency collaborative to draw from home health agency staff
 - Pursue using volunteers through the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer

Facility Reopening Update

- Outdoor visitation guidance released this week
 - [Guidance for residential care facilities outdoor visitation](#)
- Indoor visitation requires a new public health order, so time exists to add/clarify details

PROGRESS TOWARDS TESTING GOAL

State Lab Testing

Facilities Receiving
Supplies

43

Total Test Kits
Distributed

15,050

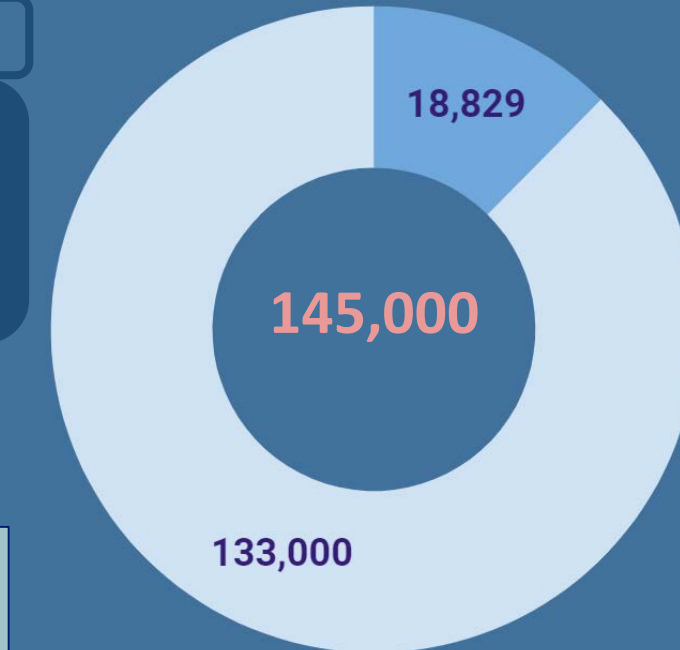
National Guard Testing & Support

Total
Facilities

15

Total Tested

2,177



Total Tests
Distributed

6,100

Total Tests
Conducted

1,602

Colorado State University Testing*

Week 2 Update 6/15-6/21

State Lab Testing Support

of Facilities Receiving Supplies: 23
of Test Kits Distributed: 6,100

National Guard Testing Support

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| # of facilities visited | 9 |
| Total # tested | 1,297 |
| # of residents tested | 763 |
| # of staff tested | 534 |

CSU Testing Support

of Facilities Reached: 11
of Test Kits Distributed: 3,750
of Tests Conducted: 749
of Positives Identified: 4

TOTAL TESTING OF RESIDENTIAL CARE SETTINGS

Total Facilities Receiving
Supplies

104

State Lab Testing

Total Test Kits Distributed

56,095

TOTAL TESTS
DISTRIBUTED

74,313

National Guard Testing & Support

Total Facilities

52

Total Tested

8,464

Total Residents Tested

3,351

Total Staff Tested

4,125

Colorado
State
University
Testing*

Total Tests Distributed

9,754

Total Tests
Conducted

5,949

of staff
tested:

1,725

of residents
tested:

534

Total Positives
Identified

84

EM Resource

- Provides insight into bed capacity, PPE needs and staffing shortages
- Data inputted daily
- As of 6/23, 103 (45%) nursing homes and 79 (11%) are utilizing the tool
- CDPHE is offering training and technical assistance on using the tool
- Group homes to be added within the next few weeks
- Use of EM Resource to be required per new public health order



New Questions?

Stay Engaged

Memos, Webinar Info, and FAQs - Updated Regularly

www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-covid-19-response

Email us

HCPF_HCBS_Questions@state.co.us

Subscribe to Future Updates

[Click here to subscribe](#)

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

More Information



www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/



www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/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



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Resources from Others

- Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) released a [series of publications](#) on providing day and employment services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Multicultural Council (MCC) released [COVID-19 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Resources](#)
- [Video: Supporting Grayson's Family](#), includes key themes that are relevant to home visiting during the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Video: Una visita en el hogar con la familia de Liam \(A Home Visit with Liam's Family\)](#), Ohio occupational therapist Marta Gonzalez delivers an early intervention home visit during the COVID-19 pandemic, illustrating how home visits using video conferencing can continue to support children and their families (in Spanish with English sub-titles)

CDC Guidance for People with IDD

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released COVID-19 guidance, with a primary focus on family members and caregivers who support people with developmental disabilities.

- [Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#)
- [Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- [Guidance for Direct Service Providers, Caregivers, Parents, and People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders](#)
- [People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders](#)

Here is a link to the CDC website:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/developmental-behavioral-disorders.html

Next Steps

Thank You!