



## POLICY MEMO

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>COVID-19 UNINSURED BENEFIT FOR TESTING ONLY</b>
<b>SUPERSEDES NUMBER:</b>	N/A
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>MARCH 18, 2020</b>
<b>DIVISION AND OFFICE:</b>	<b>MEDICAID OPERATIONS OFFICE</b>
<b>PROGRAM AREA:</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY POLICY</b>
<b>KEY WORDS:</b>	<b>COVID, TESTING</b>
<b>POLICY MEMO NUMBER: HCPF PM 20-009</b>	
<b>ISSUE DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2020</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY: KIM BIMESTEFER</b>	

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*HCPF Memo Series can be accessed online: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/memo-series>*

### **Purpose and Audience:**

The [public health emergency \(PHE\) end date has once again been extended from October 23, 2020 to January 20, 2021.](#) To answer questions we have received on this topic, this operational memo will clarify guidance and rules related to eligibility for COVID-19 testing for uninsured individuals.

### **Information:**

During the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) PHE, effective March 18, 2020 the Department is providing coverage for COVID-19 testing services to individuals who are uninsured and are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance. This limited benefit does not include treatment for COVID-19 or complications from the virus. It also does not provide other benefits such as coverage for emergency services.

To determine eligibility, applicants will answer the following questions:

1. Have you been impacted through exposure to or potential infection of COVID-19? [**Yes** or No]
2. Do you have health insurance or health care coverage? [Yes or **No**]

3. Do you or did you need health care for COVID-19 testing, treatment or care for complications related to COVID-19? [**Yes** or No]

If the applicant answers as indicated in bold above (Yes, No, Yes), then the applicant is considered eligible for COVID-19 testing only.

**Procedure:**

The Department is using the existing process to apply for medical assistance for this group. The three COVID-19 questions have been added in PEAK, Health First Colorado app, the paper application (Worksheet J) and in CBMS (Colorado Benefits Management System). Eligibility for the COVID-19 Uninsured Testing group will not be determined if any of the COVID-19 questions are left blank. Lastly, individuals do not need to provide verification of the COVID-19 responses.

Eligible individuals will not receive a Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) ID card because they are only eligible for COVID-19 testing; instead, these members will receive a notice that the individual is approved for the COVID-19 testing limited benefit with a start date. Retroactive coverage has not changed; a member can request retroactive benefits for up to 90 days from the date of service.

As of October 2020, members will receive a denial notice detailing the ineligibility reason for full medical assistance benefits. This will be in addition to the approval for limited benefits for COVID-19 testing. Members whose eligibility was determined prior to October 2020 will have their eligibility redetermined, and a notice with appeal rights will be provided as of the new notice date.

For additional details on eligibility determinations in CBMS, including a webinar, training PowerPoint and FAQs, please visit [CoLearn](#) and log in with your credentials. After signing in, you will be directed to launch the recording and have access to training materials.

**Attachment(s):**

None

**Department Contact:**

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