



POLICY MEMO

TITLE:	COVID-19 UNINSURED BENEFIT FOR TESTING, TREATMENT, OR CARE FOR COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO COVID-19
SUPERSEDES NUMBER:	PM 20-009
EFFECTIVE DATE:	MARCH 11, 2021
DIVISION AND OFFICE:	MEDICAID OPERATIONS OFFICE
PROGRAM AREA:	ELIGIBILITY POLICY
KEY WORDS:	COVID, TESTING, TREATMENT
POLICY MEMO NUMBER: HCPF PM 22-007	
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APPROVED BY: RALPH CHOATE	

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 April 16, 2022, to July 15, 2022](#). To answer questions we have received on this topic, this policy memo will clarify guidance and rules related to eligibility for COVID-19 only Medicaid eligibility category 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 provided testing services is effective beginning March 18, 2020. Effective March 11, 2021, this category also includes treatment for COVID-19 or complications from the virus, as well as the COVID 19 vaccines. It 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, treatment, care for complications, and the COVID 19 vaccines.

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 their 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, treatment or care for complications and the COVID 19 vaccines; 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, treatment or care for complications and COVID 19 vaccines. 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:

hcpf_medicaid.eligibility@state.co.us