

NUMBER

#20-21-03

DATE

May 1, 2020

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors
Social Services Supervisors and
Staff
Financial Assistance Supervisors
and Workers
Mille Lacs Tribal TANF
Tribal Chairpersons and Tribal
Health Directors
Health Care Eligibility
Operations (HCEO) Managers,
Supervisors, and Staff

ACTION/DUE DATE

The information in this bulletin
is effective May 1, 2020.

EXPIRATION DATE

May 1, 2022

DHS Announces Medical Assistance for COVID-19 Testing of Uninsured Individuals

TOPIC

The Department of Human Services (DHS) announces Medical Assistance (MA) coverage of COVID-19 testing during the peacetime emergency for individuals who are uninsured.

PURPOSE

This bulletin provides the eligibility criteria, covered benefits and the application form and process that is effective May 1, 2020, for MA coverage of COVID-19 testing for uninsured individuals.

CONTACT

County, tribal agencies and DHS workers should submit eligibility policy questions via HealthQuest.

All others should direct questions to the following:

Health Care Eligibility and Access (HCEA) Division
PO Box 64989
540 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55164-0989

SIGNED

MATT ANDERSON
Assistant Commissioner/State Medicaid Director
Health Care Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (Public Law 116-127) gives states the option to provide Medicaid to uninsured individuals to cover the testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

The 2020 Minnesota legislature passed a law authorizing the new Medicaid coverage group for COVID-19 testing of the uninsured. The new coverage group is effective May 1, 2020, and ends when the COVID-19 peacetime emergency ends.

This bulletin discusses the new Medical Assistance (MA) coverage group, referred to as MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing. Any person may apply for this new coverage group, including individuals from or receiving services from a Tribal Nation.

II. MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing

A. Eligibility Criteria

Effective May 1, 2020, to qualify for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing, a person must:

- Be a resident of Minnesota. See [EPM section 1.4 MHCP State Residency](#) for more information.
- Be a United States (U.S.) citizen, a U.S. national or a lawfully present noncitizen with an immigration status that qualifies for Medical Assistance. Standard verification rules apply. See [EPM section 2.1.2.2.1 MA Citizenship](#) and [EPM section 2.1.2.2.2 MA Immigration Status](#) for more information.
- Provide their Social Security number, unless they meet an exception for not having one. Standard verification rules apply. See [EPM section 2.1.2.5 MA Social Security Number](#) for more information.
- Be uninsured and not be enrolled in:
 - MinnesotaCare or MA, except if a person is enrolled in MA with a spenddown, Alternative Care (AC) or the Minnesota Family Planning Program (MFPP). A person may be concurrently enrolled in those programs and MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing.
 - A group health plan or an individual health insurance plan. This includes a qualified health plan through MNSure, employer-sponsored health insurance, retiree health plans and COBRA continuation coverage.
 - Another health care program funded by the federal government including Medicare, TRICARE and Veterans Administration, and federal employee health plans.

Access to other health insurance is not a barrier to MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing, as long as the person is not actually enrolled in the other health insurance.

There is no income or asset test for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing.

Eligibility for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing begins the first day of the month of application, and up to three months before the month of application for people who need retroactive coverage, but no earlier

than May 1, 2020. Eligibility for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing ends if an enrollee requests voluntary termination, is no longer a Minnesota resident, passes away or when the COVID-19 peacetime emergency ends, whichever is earliest.

B. Application Process

Effective May 1, 2020, to apply for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing, a person must complete the Application for Limited MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing (DHS-7310). The provider or clinic administering the COVID-19 test will provide and submit the application to DHS for processing.

Department of Human Services (DHS) staff will determine eligibility for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing. These applications will not be processed in the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS) or MAXIS. They will be processed in the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS).

DHS staff will send eligibility notices to applicants informing them whether their application is approved or denied. Approval notices will include information about the limited coverage under this program. Both approval and denial notices will include information about applying for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) for more comprehensive health care coverage. DHS will send closing notices if an enrollee requests voluntary termination, is no longer a Minnesota resident, passes away or when the COVID-19 peacetime emergency ends, whichever is earliest.

Completing an application for MA or MinnesotaCare is not a requirement to qualify for MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing. However, a person who needs help paying for COVID-19 testing may be eligible for more comprehensive health care coverage under MA or MinnesotaCare. See the following for information about how to apply for these programs:

- [Adults - how to apply](#)
- [Children and families - how to apply](#)
- [People with disabilities - how to apply](#)
- [Seniors - how to apply](#)

C. Covered Benefits

MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing covers only testing and evaluation related to diagnosis of COVID-19. This includes coverage for the COVID-19 test, serological tests and the office visit during which the test was given. MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing does not include services for the treatment of COVID-19. There are no copays or deductibles for COVID-19 testing and evaluation. A person can have more than one COVID-19 test covered while they are enrolled in this program.

The provider will bill DHS for the COVID-19 testing and evaluation on a fee-for-service basis through MN-ITS for MA payment.

III. Action Required

An Application for Limited MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing (DHS-7310) may be received by a county or tribal agency. If it is, send the application to the DHS Health Care Consumer Support (HCCS) by fax at 651-431-7374 or by U.S. mail to PO Box 64252, St. Paul, MN, 55164-0252.

As part of the state's effort to provide widespread, rapid COVID-19 testing, a new website is now available to help Minnesotans find a testing location within their community. This testing collaborative includes 127 clinics and health care facilities across the state. The [new COVID-19 website](#) provides easy access to Minnesotans' closest testing site, offers general information related to the COVID-19 outbreak, and provides an interactive screening tool to help Minnesotans determine if they need a test. Refer individuals seeking information about COVID-19 to this website.

IV. Legal Authority

Section 6004 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127)
Laws of Minnesota 2020, Regular Session, Chapter 74, Article 1, Section 11

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling 651-297-3862 or toll free at 800-657-3672 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.