



BRAD LITTLE – Governor
DAVE JEPPESEN – Director

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

MATT WIMMER - Administrator
DIVISION OF MEDICAID
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0009
PHONE: (208) 334-5747
FAX: (208) 364-1811

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MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE MA20-18

To: All Medicaid Providers

From: Matt Wimmer, Administrator

Subject: COVID-19 Essential Providers

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare continues to monitor and prepare for impacts resulting from the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). During this time it is vitally important that Medicaid participants receive services and get their needs met.

Idaho Governor Brad Little and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare issued a [Statewide Stay-Home Order](#) on Wednesday, March 25, for all Idahoans. The order covers the entire state and begins immediately. It will last for at least twenty-one (21) days.

Essential state and local government functions will remain open. As the situation changes and more information is available, the Governor and public health officials can issue new orders and directives as needed. This is a statewide order, but cities, counties and local public health districts may enact more stringent measures.

Medicaid services are considered to be essential healthcare operations under the stay at home order.

The [Statewide Stay-Home Order FAQs](#) and [Statewide Stay-Home Order Essential Services](#) contain more detailed information.

Though your services are essential, **we do ask all providers to use their best clinical and professional judgment to minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19 for their patients or clients by using telehealth options and postponing or delaying care that increases the risk of transmission whenever possible.** We ask providers to thoughtfully weigh risks against benefits for services to participants delivered in group settings and routine wellness services. The CDC has provided some [helpful guidance](#) for healthcare facilities to help control these risks.

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Deferring elective or routine services will also help free up much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical devices (such as ventilators) that may be needed to serve patients with critical needs in the coming days.

Providers should be aware of recent information releases that assist in clarifying telehealth service options:

[Medicaid Information Release MA20-07](#) for Telehealth and COVID-19

[Medicaid Information Release MA20-13](#) for COVID-19 Telehealth HIPAA Guidance

[Medicaid Information Release MA20-14](#) for COVID-19 Therapy Services Telehealth

We thank you for your service to Idaho Medicaid participants and appreciate your work to address this public health threat.

MW/cab