



# COVID-19 news from UnitedHealthcare

National public health emergency extended to July 19, 2021

UnitedHealthcare remains committed to delivering timely news and updates to help you stay informed of fast-changing COVID-19 circumstances. Here's a quick overview of the recent extension of the national public health emergency period, as well as billing updates and resources to help you answer patient questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

## COVID-19 billing updates

National public health emergency extended

We wanted to advise you that the national public health emergency has been extended from April 20, 2021 to July 19, 2021. Below is an overview of how that extension affects temporary provisions for COVID-19 testing and testing-related services.

- **Individual Exchange, Individual and Group Market health plans:** From Feb. 4, 2020 through the national public health emergency period, UnitedHealthcare is waiving cost sharing for in-network and out-of-network COVID-19 tests and testing-related services, including testing-related telehealth visits.
- **Medicare Advantage:** From Feb. 4, 2020 through the national public health emergency period, UnitedHealthcare is waiving cost sharing for in-network and out-of-network tests for COVID-19.
- **Medicaid:** State-specific rules and other state regulations may apply. For Medicaid and other state-specific regulations, please refer to your state-specific website or your state's UnitedHealthcare Community Plan website, if applicable.

Complete details on these temporary cost share waivers are available at [UHCprovider.com/COVID19](https://UHCprovider.com/COVID19) and in the [Summary of COVID-19 Temporary Program Provisions](#).

## COVID-19 billing updates

To help you submit claims for COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines, we've updated the [COVID-19 Billing Guide](#):

- **COVID-19 testing:** Clarified effective dates for Z codes, how to bill for E&M services, and added an additional CPT code for Medicare billing.
- **Urgent care vaccine administration:** Added information and codes for COVID-19 vaccinations that take place at in-network urgent care facilities that are contracted with an all-inclusive rate.

We also want to remind you of the following:

- **Services received during vaccination appointments:** Members will not have any out-of-pocket cost share for the COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine administration through the national public health emergency period. They may be responsible for the copays, coinsurance, deductibles or out of-network charges for any additional services received during the vaccination appointment.
- **Up-front member payments:** At the time of service, you should not ask UnitedHealthcare members for payment of any costs associated with the COVID-19 vaccine. Eligible members receiving the vaccine will not have any out-of-pocket cost share (copayment, coinsurance or deductible) through the national public health emergency period, whether for the vaccine or the vaccine administration.

## COVID-19 vaccine information for use with members

In the last few days, the Centers for Disease Control recommended a pause in use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, due to a small number of reported blood clotting issues after some patients received the vaccine. Since this pause may create more questions from your patients, we wanted to remind you of the resources available to help you navigate those conversations:

- Review our new [Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence](#) self-paced learning course for tips and scenarios that will help you respond during conversations with members
- Check out our [Vaccine Confidence resources](#) to help answer questions. It has information from the American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and UnitedHealthcare

The most up-to-date information on UnitedHealthcare's COVID-19 response – including treatment, telehealth, vaccines, billing and more – is always found on [UHCprovider.com/COVID19](https://UHCprovider.com/COVID19).

We appreciate your continued focus on putting patient care first during the COVID-19 national public health emergency. Thank you for your continuous efforts to keep our members healthy and informed.