

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

COVID-19 Resources & Information

Table of Contents

DCH Waivers Telemedicine/Telehealth Policies.....	Page 2-3
MAG MRC.....	Page 4
Impact on Workers.....	Page 5
Impact on Businesses.....	Page 6
Taxes and Student Loans.....	Page 7
Federal Stimulus Package Highlights.....	Page 8
Kemp Press Release: March 23, 2020.....	Page 9
Volunteer for COVID-19 Response.....	Page 10
Georgia Businesses to Aid with Critical Health Care Needs.....	Page 11
Outreach Wellness Learning Webinars.....	Page 12
Helpful Links.....	Page 13

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

DCH waives certain Medicaid telehealth/telemedicine policies

1. Waving the telehealth services originating site limitations. Originating sites are listed below
2. Allowing telehealth services to be provided during the period of COVID-19 emergency response by the following modalities...
 - Telephone communication
 - Use of webcam or other audio and video technology
 - Video cell phone communication

Originating sites include the following...

- Physician and practitioner’s offices
- Hospitals
- Rural health clinics
- Federally qualified health centers
- Hospital-based or CAH based renal dialysis centers (independent renal dialysis facilities are not eligible originating sites)
- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)
- Local education authorities
- County boards of health
- Community mental health centers
- A mobile stroke unit [only for purposes of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke provided in accordance with section 1834(m)(6)]
- The home of a member
- Emergency medical services ambulance
- Pharmacies

During the period of COVID-19 emergency response, providers should make every effort to ensure that communication is secure and that HIPPA requirements are met for the privacy and confidentiality of Medicaid members.

This banner notification is to inform all Medicaid providers that [DCH] will allow telehealth services under the following guidance...

- All services must be deemed medically necessary
- Providers must comply with the provisions outlined in the Telehealth Manual posted on GAMMIS
- The patient must initiate the service and provide consent to be treated virtually, and the consent must be documented in the medical record with date, time and consenting/responsible party before initiation of the service.
- The codes that will be billed must be identified as “telehealth services” by utilizing a telehealth **Place of Service (POS)** code or a **telehealth modifier (e.g., GT)**. For example, evaluation and management (E/M) codes must have a telehealth **Place of Service (POS) code**. Other codes may have



a modifier. The codes and modifiers are identified in the Telehealth Guidance which is located on the GAMMIS website. Providers may locate the Telehealth Guidance manual by accessing the following link: www.mmis.georgia.gov. Select the 'Provider Information' tab, then select 'Provider Manuals.' Scroll down to locate the Telehealth/Telemedicine manual

– Qualified health care providers must continue to comply with state telehealth laws and regulations, including professional licensure, scope of practice, standards of care, patient consent and other payment requirements for Medicaid members

Home and Community Based Waiver Service Providers

For home and community-based waiver providers, initial and annual assessments as well as level of care determinations may be performed via telehealth in lieu of face to face visits. Case management services, nurse supervisory visits, and assessments for home care admissions may also be provided via telehealth.

DCH is reviewing all category of service codes for additional codes that can be included in telehealth reimbursement. MMIS will be modified to include new codes following DCH review. [DCH] will post additional information as needed

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

MAG MRC identifying COVID-19 physician volunteers for Georgia Adjutant General

Georgia Adjutant General (AG) Thomas Carden has asked the Medical Association of Georgia Medical Reserve Corps (MAG MRC) to identify physicians in the state who have limited their practice as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis who are willing to volunteer to provide medical care for Georgians "outside of their traditional office or hospital setting."

Identifying these physicians is the first step in the AG's strategic planning process, as the AG's office has not determined how it will deploy these physicians. The MAG MRC will coordinate this effort, which will see physician volunteers organized by regions in the state.

These volunteer physicians will provide both direct clinical patient care and/or care via telemedicine. Liability and workers' compensation is included in this activity.

Click here to complete a survey if you are interested in serving as a volunteer to provide medical care outside of the traditional office or hospital setting.

The MAG MRC is also asking residents and retired physicians and medical students who would like to support this effort to complete this survey.

Contact Fred Jones at fjones@mag.org with questions.

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

Impact on Workers

Coronavirus is having a major impact on employers and employees across our state. If you are currently job searching, or are facing suspended or reduced hours because of this crisis, Employ Georgia is a great resource.

Right now, there are more than 110,000 job postings on the site. Check out www.EmployGeorgia.com.

The Georgia Department of Labor also offers online resources for finding a job, building a resume, and can help answer your employment-related questions. Visit <https://dol.georgia.gov/> for more information.

Please get in touch with our office if we can help you navigate this process. We are here to help.



Impact on Businesses

Governor Brian Kemp and the U.S. Small Business Administration have announced that small businesses across Georgia can apply for low-interest federal disaster loans. The loans can provide working capital to help ease the economic burden businesses are experiencing because of the coronavirus' impact.

[Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications here.](#)

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is **December 18, 2020.**



Tax Day pushed to July 15, 2020

The Administration announced that Tax Day, which is every year on April 15th, has been pushed to July 15th. This will allow businesses and individuals extra time to file their federal taxes without penalties.

Please note: the state filing deadline remains unchanged. For help with your state taxes, you can visit the Georgia Tax Center, [here](#).

For more information on the new federal filing deadline, [please click here](#).

Federal Student Loan Delays

The Administration announced that they have temporarily suspended all payments on federally held student loans. This temporary suspension will last for 60 days, and borrowers should contact their lenders for more information.

It was also announced that the Department of Education will not enforce standardized testing requirements for students in elementary through high school this year. More information and guidance from the Administration will be released in the coming days.

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

Federal Stimulus Package Highlights

March 6: \$8 billion for health

Lawmakers designed the first phase of coronavirus relief specifically for actual healthcare measures. Congress and the White House agreed to provide additional funding for key U.S. agencies involved in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration. It also provided money for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development in working internationally, as well as the Small Business Administration to help administer \$1 billion in loan subsidies.

The phase 1 stimulus package had the goal of helping to develop new coronavirus treatments, implementing public health measures to try to slow and prevent the spread of the disease, and provide some relief to ailing businesses. In addition, money sent overseas was consistent with the U.S. position of helping other nations in need.

March 18: \$100 billion for broader relief

Just a couple days ago, lawmakers moved forward with a larger measure with a much broader scope. The so-called phase-two deal included a wider variety of provisions designed to offer economic assistance to those hit hard by the pandemic. They included the following:

- Paid sick leave for two weeks for all businesses that have fewer than 500 employees
- Job-protected family medical leave for up to 12 weeks for a qualifying need, which includes public health emergencies
- Boosts to unemployment insurance benefits
- More money for food assistance programs affected by the outbreak
- Free testing for coronavirus, regardless of whether a patient has health insurance coverage

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

Gov. Kemp issues 'shelter in place' order for at-risk individuals

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has issued a "shelter in place" order for at-risk individuals that will remain in effect until at least Monday, April 6 as a result of the COVID-19 health care crisis.

This order applies to...

- Patients who have COVID-19
- Patients who have COPD/chronic lung disease or cancer
- Patients who are in long-term care facilities
- Patients who are suspected of having COVID-19

It is also worth noting that...

- All bars and nightclubs have also been ordered to close
- "No business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than 10 persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or to be seated within six feet of any other person"
- People should adhere to the six-foot "social distancing" rule
- Pharmacists will be able to dispense 90-day supplies of medications (excluding schedule 2 drugs)
- The deadline to file state taxes will be extended until July 15

Gov. Kemp said that additional rules and regulations are in the works.

Key Georgia COVID-19 metrics...

- 25 deaths
- 772 confirmed cases in 67 counties
- 1,245 COVID-19 tests performed by DPH
- 3,824 COVID-19 tests performed by private labs

The state is also exploring the possibility of converting existing venues into COVID-19 health care facilities.

Health care capacity is especially limited in Doherty County.

Gov. Kemp also said that he expects additional supplies of PPE to be delivered to health care professionals in the state in the next five days.

Gov. Kemp is encouraging medical practices to 1) cancel elective procedures and 2) employ telehealth options to the greatest extent possible.

[Gov. Kemp's 'shelter in place' order](#)

[Gov. Kemp's 'shelter in place' press conference](#)



Volunteer for COVID-19 Response

Atlanta, GA – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is receiving offers from medical professionals and other individuals looking for ways to help with the COVID-19 response. An effective response relies on volunteers who are pre-credentialed and organized. Georgia Responds is Georgia’s health and medical volunteer program which matches the skills and credentials of medical and non-medical volunteers to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Georgia.

Medical volunteers may be used to answer medical questions coming into the COVID-19 hotline or assist at test specimen collection sites. Non-medical volunteers may be used in administrative roles at either the call center or test collection sites or provide interpretation or other skills as needed.

To volunteer, log on to <https://dph.georgia.gov/georgia-responds> and click on the “Register Now” box. Registration only takes a few minutes. Prospective volunteers will be asked for their name, address, contact information, and occupation type. In order to be eligible for some assignments, responders are encouraged to complete a profile summary, which includes skills and certifications, training, medical history, emergency contact, and deployment preferences. Once your skills and credentials are reviewed, you will be notified by a DPH representative.

All Georgians play a critical role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the following guidance:

Practice social distancing by putting at least six feet between yourself and other people.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home if you are sick.

Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

For updates on the COVID-19 situation as it develops, follow @GaDPH, @GeorgiaEMA, and @GovKemp on Twitter and @GaDPH, @GEMA.OHS, and @GovKemp on Facebook.

For information about COVID-19, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/georgia-responds> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

Gov. Kemp Calls on Georgia Businesses to Aid with Critical Health Care Needs

Atlanta, GA – Governor Brian P. Kemp today called on all Georgia businesses who are able to help the state provide, produce, distribute, or store critical health care items needed to fight the spread of COVID-19.

“As our state’s hardworking healthcare workers and first responders stand on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19, it is our job to come together as Georgians and arm them with the necessary resources to keep them safe and effective,” said Governor Kemp. “Now more than ever, I am confident in both our nation and our state’s ability to work in solidarity as we continue to fight spread of COVID-19. I ask all Georgia businesses who are able to support us in the fight against this global pandemic.”

Critical items include: N-95 masks or equivalent, air purifying machines, face shields, hair covers, hand sanitizer, hospital beds, gloves (various sizes – nitrile or latex-free), negative pressure machines, no-touch thermometers (regular if no-touch are not available), safety goggles, sanitation units, sanitizing spray, sanitizing wipes, shoe covers, surgical masks, Tyvek suits, and ventilators.

Businesses able to provide assistance and resources with factories already up and running, or facilities that can be repurposed for these vital products, are asked to complete an informational form online here. This is simply for the purpose of collecting information. Submission of the form will not equate to a commitment by the state of Georgia to purchase.

As part of this mission, the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is actively working to identify manufacturers and distributors across the state who have in their inventory, or could produce, distribute, or store critical health care supplies that are already limited in supply or may become scarce in the weeks ahead.

“We could not be more grateful for the dedication our medical workers, first responders, and partners have shown during this challenging time. They consistently continue to make Georgians’ health and safety their number one priority,” said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. “As we fight COVID-19 and its expanded consequences together, we thank our Georgia businesses who have stepped up to help our state and pledge the continued full support of the Georgia Department of Economic Development.”

To complete the information form, visit: www.georgia.org/covid19response.

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

Outreach Wellness Learning Webinars

Mental Wellness during COVID-19

March 26th 11 am - 12 pm [Here](#)

March 31st 11 am - 12 pm [Here](#)

Mental Health 101

April 7th 12 pm - 1 pm [Here](#)

April 21st 3 pm - 4 pm [Here](#)

Mental Health Crisis

March 27th 12 pm - 1 pm [Here](#)

April 14th 12 pm - 1pm [Here](#)

May 6th 12 pm - 1 pm [Here](#)

Building Resilience in Youth

April 9th 12 pm - 1 pm [Here](#)

April 23rd 2 pm - 3 pm [Here](#)

MESSAGE IMPORTANT

COVID-19

Helpful Links

1. <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
3. <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>
4. <https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases>
5. <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>
6. <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
7. <https://dol.georgia.gov/blog/new-information-filing-unemployment-partial-claims-and-reemployment-services>