June 14, 2022

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

Where can I get information and updates about the COVID-19?
Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html

Information about South Dakota’s response and updates about the COVID-19 is available from the South Dakota Department of Health at https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx

Should I go to the doctor/hospital if I think I have COVID-19?
Individuals who are concerned that they have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider via phone before going to a clinic or hospital to prevent spread in healthcare facilities.

Where can I find out more information about COVID-19 vaccination?

What is telemedicine?
Telemedicine (sometimes called telehealth) lets your doctor provide care for you without an in-person office visit. Telemedicine is done primarily online with internet access on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Medicaid Coverage

Does Medicaid cover testing and treatment for COVID-19?
Yes, Medicaid covers testing and treatment for COVID-19. There is no cost share (for example, co-payments) associated with testing and treatment of COVID-19.

Does Medicaid cover at home COVID-19 tests?
Yes, South Dakota Medicaid covers prescribed FDA authorized at-home COVID-19 tests through the pharmacy benefit. Authorized prescribers include pharmacists.

Does Medicaid cover the COVID-19 vaccination?
Yes, Medicaid covers the COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized for use by the FDA. There is no cost share (for example, co-payments) associated with the COVID-19 vaccine.

Can services be provided via telephone or through an audio-only device?
South Dakota Medicaid currently covers some audio-only services. Check with your provider to see if you qualify for audio-only services.
Are telemedicine services covered?
Yes, South Dakota Medicaid covers telemedicine services. Covered services include doctor’s office visits, mental health services, and substance use disorder treatment. Only certain services are covered via telemedicine. Confirm with your health care provider that the service is covered by Medicaid before receiving it.

Can I receive telemedicine services if I am in the same community as my health care provider?
Yes, effective July 1, 2021 providers and recipients can be located in the same community. Discuss with your doctor whether the service is covered via telemedicine and whether the service can be effectively provided via telemedicine.

Can I use telemedicine services for therapy services?
South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology services provided via telemedicine for patients at high risk for COVID-19 or under quarantine or social distancing during the declared emergency for COVID-19. Therapy services may only utilize telemedicine if the recipient and provider have previously met for in-person services. Use of telemedicine for the convenience of the provider or recipient is not covered.

Can I receive teledentistry services?
Yes, South Dakota covers a number of dental services via teledentistry. Discuss with your dentist whether they offer teledentistry services and whether the service is covered.

Can I receive Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Services through telemedicine?
South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of ABA services provided via telemedicine for recipients and providers at high risk for COVID-19, under quarantine, or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19.

What if my in-home provider is absent due to COVID-19?
Please contact your individual case manager or service coordinator. You may also contact Dakota at Home at 1-833-663-9673 for assistance.

Medicaid Eligibility

How is my eligibility for Medicaid impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?
Individuals who were already on South Dakota Medicaid in March 2020 or have become eligible for Medicaid since then are able to keep their Medicaid until the Public Health Emergency ends.

Coverage will only be terminated if the Medicaid recipient passes away, requests case closure, moves out of state, or was not accurately enrolled in Medicaid.

Are all coverage groups eligible for continuous coverage during the Public Health Emergency?
No, continuous coverage only applies to Medicaid recipients. Children who are eligible for coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or aid categories 78 and 79 are not eligible and their coverage may be terminated.
Should I report changes if I can’t lose my Medicaid coverage?
Yes, please continue to report changes, such as income, household, or contact information.

When will the public health emergency end?
This is unknown. Continuous coverage will last through the end of the month in which the Public Health Emergency ends. The end date will be announced by the United States Department of Health & Human Services.

How can I help keep my Medicaid from ending after the emergency?
Report any changes in your information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, so DSS can stay in contact with you. Report any changes in your circumstances, such as income or household changes. Renew your Medicaid if it’s time. Respond to any requests for information, such as a renewal packet or verifications of your income or other changes.

How can I update my contact information or report changes?
Call or email your local office: https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/. You can also visit: https://dss.sd.gov/contactus/.

If I am not eligible after the emergency, when will my Medicaid terminate?
If you were determined ineligible for Medicaid during the Public Health Emergency or the Division of Economic Assistance could not contact you to determine your eligibility, you will receive a renewal packet on or before your renewal date so the Division of Economic Assistance can determine your current eligibility. It is important you keep your information with DSS up to date. Always use an address where mail can reach you.

How can I apply for Medicaid coverage?

What if my Medicaid coverage ends after the Public Health Emergency ends?
If you no longer qualify for Medicaid, you may be able to get coverage you can afford from the federal Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information on the Health Insurance Marketplace, call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) or visit http://www.healthcare.gov.