

July 6, 2020

MEDICAID ALERT

TO: Potential COVID-19 Limited Benefit Program Applicants

SUBJECT: New Coverage for COVID-19 Testing Available for Those Without Healthcare Coverage

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) today announced it will begin accepting applications for a limited-benefit Medicaid coverage group newly authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) to provide reimbursement for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing for those without healthcare coverage. Today's announcement will provide additional financial support to increase access to testing, a critical component of the state's response to addressing the pandemic, for South Carolinians without other sources of healthcare coverage. **Current Healthy Connections Medicaid members, including those enrolled in Family Planning, do not need to apply for the new program.**

In order to qualify for this new SCDHHS-administered program, an individual must:

- Be uninsured;
- Be a resident of South Carolina;
- Provide a Social Security number; and,
- Have a qualifying citizenship or immigration status.

In order for testing to be covered by the new COVID-19 Limited Benefit Program, the test must be conducted by a healthcare provider who accepts Healthy Connections Medicaid. A list of in-network Healthy Connections Medicaid providers is [available here on SCDHHS.gov](http://www.scdhhs.gov).

Coverage for this group is limited to COVID-19 testing. To apply for this new limited-benefit coverage, visit www.scdhhs.gov/COVID19, click on "Apply for COVID-19 Limited Benefit Coverage" to download an application, then follow the instructions on the application for how to return it; or, call (888) 549-0820 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday or 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. COVID-19 testing is a covered benefit for current Healthy Connections Medicaid members.

SCDHHS has also made a number of temporary policy changes to ensure ongoing access to care during the COVID-19 pandemic, including creating additional ways to submit documents electronically to the agency. For more information regarding those changes, visit www.scdhhs.gov/COVID19.