

Executive Orders

- **April 1:** Governor Jared Polis issued [Executive Order D2020 020](#), Ordering the Temporary Suspension of Certain Statutes to Expand the Use of Telehealth Services Due to the Presence of COVID-19.
- **March 25:** Governor Polis signed an [executive order](#) authorizing state agencies to extend the expiration date for child care center and family child care home licenses.
- **March 25:** [Executive Order D 2020 015](#) - Governor Polis authorized state agencies to extend the expiration date for child care center and family child care home licenses.
- **March 20:** [Executive Order D 2020 012](#) - Governor Polis made \$1 million available to CDLE from the Disaster Emergency Fund to improve and expedite services available to individuals applying for UI benefits.
- **March 18:** Through [executive order](#), Colorado created a [special 15-day enrollment period](#) for those who are currently uninsured. Individuals can sign-up for coverage through Connect for Health Colorado from March 20 - April 3.
- **March 18:** Through [executive order](#), Governor Polis directed the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to access additional Child Care Development Block Grant funds for counties to reimburse child care providers in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) for absences or closures related to COVID-19. In partnership with advocacy organizations and state agencies, Governor Polis created an [emergency child care system](#) to provide child care for the children of workers essential to support treatment and prevention of COVID-19.
- **March 18:** [Executive Order D 2020 007](#) - Governor Polis directed the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to access additional Child Care Development Block Grant funds for counties to reimburse child care providers in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) for absences or closures related to COVID-19.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

- **April 1:** In response to the recent COVID-19 developments and [directives given by Governor Polis](#), the Division of Professions and Occupations under the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) will expedite licensing to increase workforce capacity to address this emergency through [Homecare Telehealth Waiver](#). This includes the temporary suspension of the application of laws, rules and policies that will allow the State to expand its testing capacity for Coronavirus and ensure ongoing business continuity in the delivery of healthcare services.
- **March 31:** CDPHE's Health Facilities Division has created waiver applications for agencies to meet specified observation, supervision, and evaluation requirements through telehealth methods rather than in-person or on-site. Additionally, the waiver allows certain therapy

services to be provided via interactive audiovisual connections. The waiver application can be found here: [Homecare Telehealth Waiver](#).

- **March 30:** In conjunction with the [CMS waivers issued](#), the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) has developed a medical surge concept of operations to increase healthcare capability. Facilities in Tiers 1 and 2 will continue to require a waiver from the Health Facilities Division. Tiers 3 and 4 will not require a waiver and will operate under SEOC command. Read the full [Medical Surge Concept Model](#).
- **March 27:** CDPHE updated [interim guidance](#), to their Mar. 14 interim guidance, to long-term care facilities (LTCFs) regarding preparation and response when residents or healthcare personnel are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
- **March 26:** CDPHE's Health Facilities Division has created waiver applications for alternative care sites due to the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID 19) pandemic. Please use this application process to increase capacity during this time:
 - State Regulation Waiver Application: [Licensed Hospitals for Alternate Care Site \(Capacity Increase\) Due to COVID-19 Inpatient Needs](#).
 - State Regulation Waiver Application: [Ambulatory Surgical Centers for Alternate Care Site \(Capacity Increase\) Due to COVID-19 Inpatient Needs](#).
- **March 25:** On March 22, Governor Polis issued an executive order to reduce the in-person workforce by fifty percent. In that order, he exempted employers that provide critical services. In coordination with the executive order, CDPHE issued a [public health order](#) with clarification of exempt businesses. In the public health order, healthcare operations are defined as the following:
 - Hospitals, clinics and walk-in health facilities
 - Medical and dental care, including ambulatory providers
 - Research and laboratory services
 - Medical wholesale and distribution
 - Home health care companies, workers and aides
 - Pharmacies
 - Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies
 - Behavioral health care providers
 - Veterinary care and livestock services
 - Nursing homes, residential health care, or congregate care facilities
 - Medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers, including durable medical equipment technicians and suppliers
- **March 24:** CDPHE developed guidelines for preparation and response to COVID-19 for assisted living residences. The guidance can be found at: [COVID-19, Expected Assisted Living Residence Response to Orders: Directives and Guidelines](#). And the letter can be found at: [Letter to ALRs Regarding Visitation Requirements](#).
- **March 20:** Governor Polis issued an executive order regarding elective surgery and procedures guidance: Executive Order D 2020 009 - [Ordering the Temporary Cessation of All Elective and](#)

[Non-Essential Surgeries and Procedures and Preserving Personal Protective Equipment and Ventilators in Colorado Due to the Presence of COVID-19.](#)

- **March 14:** CDPHE [developed guidelines for preparation and response for single cases and outbreaks of novel coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) in both skilled nursing facilities and assisted living residences.

[Department of Health Care Policy and Financing \(HCPF\)](#)

Members are encouraged to visit HCPF's [COVID-19 Information for Health First Colorado and CHP+ Providers and Case Managers](#) webpage and [sign up for HCPF's COVID-19 Weekly Update email](#).

- **April 2:** HCPF announced temporary changes to the Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) process, including that PASRR Level I screens, and Level II evaluations will be suspended for 30 days for new admissions and that all new admissions may be treated like exempted hospital discharges. These changes, and a number of others, are outlined in HCPF's [Operational Memo – PASRR COVID-19 UPDATE 2](#).
- **April 1:** HCPF suspend the Inpatient Hospital Review Program (IHRP) until further notice. Inpatient claims in which the admit date occurs on or after April 1, 2020 will not require an IHRP prior authorization, concurrent or complex case review, or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) admission review. See p.5 of [HCPF's April 2020 Provider Bulletin](#).
- **March 30:** HCPF published an [overview](#) of the Section 1115, Section 1135 and Section 1915(c) Appendix K waivers that were submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), noting that approval from CMS has not been fully granted and/or fully implemented by HCPF.
- **March 29:** HCPF [responds](#) to CHA's [request](#) to delay or repurpose certain policies and programs until COVID-19 concerns subside. While certain delay requests, like HTP, the inpatient hospital review program and the maternity bundled payment pilot program were delayed, HCPF continues to work with their federal and state partners to evaluate delays other programs. CHA remains actively involved in advocating for appropriate delays in policies and programs including:
 - Hospital Community Benefit reporting deadlines,
 - behavioral health parity stakeholder engagement,
 - inpatient and residential substance use disorder benefit expansion timeline,
 - RAC audits, and
 - pre-admission screening and resident review (PASRR) requirements.
- **March 27:** HCPF provides [guidance regarding behavioral health services during COVID-19](#), including information regarding telemedicine and contact information for Regional Accountable Entities.
- **March 26:** HCPF [receives approval from CMS](#) for certain portions of their Section 1135 waiver. Note: While CMS has given approval, HCPF has yet to implement or provide guidance on many of the components. CHA will provide updates here as HCPF publishes new material.

- **March 25:** HCPF's claims system, the Colorado interChange, is updated to receive and process claims billed with the new ICD-19 code for the diagnosis of COVID-19 (U07.1) for dates of service on or after April 1, 2020.
- **March 24:** HCPF and the Colorado Health Institute suspend stakeholder engagement regarding HCPF's Maternity Bundled Payment Pilot Program, scheduled to begin July 1. The third stakeholder engagement meeting, meant to gather a final round of feedback from stakeholders, along with the request for written feedback has been delayed until further notice.
- **March 20:** HCPF [expands and clarifies the use of telemedicine services](#) during COVID-19 and creates a [Telemedicine – Provider Information Page](#) with a FAQ section.

HCPF provides [updated and relaxed guidance for prescribers](#), including maintenance medication dispensing, emergency refills and elimination of prior authorizations for prescription-required cough and cold products.

HCPF's Medical Services Board approves two emergency rules:

- [Waiving the prescription signature requirements](#) for members receiving a medication when they cannot physically come into a pharmacy.
 - [Permitting telemedicine](#) to be used for select home health, Federally-Qualified Health Centers, Family Planning, Rural Health Clinic, and Community Mental Health Centers/Clinic services using interactive audio, interactive video, or interactive data communication in lieu of face-to-face visits.
- **March 17:** The Hospital Transformation Program (HTP) application due date has been delayed until further notice. For more information, visit HCPF's [Hospital Transformation Program webpage](#).
 - **March 16:** HCPF postpones stakeholder engagement on their [Section 804 Drug Importation Program](#) until further notice.

CHA sent a [request](#) to HCPF for certain policy changes to address COVID-19 concerns, as well as requests for certain HCPF programs or policies to be repurposed or delayed until COVID-19 concerns subside.

- **March 13:** HCPF Opens [HCPCS Codes for COVID-19 Laboratory Tests](#).

Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)

- **April 1:** the Division of Insurance (DOI) released the following [Draft Emergency Regulation 20-E-05 - Concerning Coverage and Reimbursement for Telehealth Services During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency](#). The purpose of this emergency regulation is to require carriers to reimburse providers for provision of telehealth services using non-public facing audio or video communication products during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.
- **March 27:** The Division provided notice that the Commissioner adopted the following new bulletin: [B-4.105 Policy Directives for Small and Large Group Health Benefits Plans Related to](#)

[COVID-19](#). This bulletin is intended to provide guidance to all carriers offering small and large group health benefit plans, managed care plans, and grandfathered health benefit plans that are subject to the insurance laws of Colorado.

- **March 18:** DORA [published a review of emergency licensing measures for healthcare professionals](#), including suspensions of current portions of Nursing Board rules, the Medical Practice Act, Colorado Medical Board rules, Pharmacy Practice Act, Pharmacy Board rules, Respiratory Practice Act and associated program rules.
- **March 13:** DORA published [guidance for healthcare professionals not currently licensed in Colorado](#), outlining existing licensing exemptions that allow for individuals in the healthcare field who hold licenses in other states, or have allowed their license to expire in Colorado, to immediately resume work within their scope of practice.
- **March 9:** the Division of Insurance (DOI) issued [Bulletin No. B-4. 104](#) regarding telehealth, prescription refills and cost-shares:
 - Telehealth – DOI directed carriers to conduct outreach and education on telehealth coverage and to cover telehealth at no cost share.
 - Prescription Refill – DOI directed carriers to cover a one-time, early refill of any necessary prescription.
 - Cost-shares – DOI directed carriers to ensure coverage is provided for COVID-19 testing without the requirement that consumers pay co-pays, deductibles or co-insurance.

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)

- **March 11:** CDLE published [emergency rules](#) which temporarily require employers in certain industries to provide a small amount of paid sick leave to employees with flu-like symptoms while awaiting COVID-19 testing. CDLE also published an [Unemployment Insurance Worker FAQs webpage](#).

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

Members are encouraged to visit CDHS' [COVID-19 Information from the Office of Behavioral Health webpage](#) and sign up for [OBH's email updates](#).

- **March 27:** CDHS' Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) created an [COVID-19 Information Page](#), including behavioral health resources for individuals and for providers.
- **March 19:** OBH [published guidance](#) from Managed Service Organizations and Administrative Service Organizations regarding administration, client service, clinical care in 24-hour/bed-based programs, walk-in centers and mobile crisis response.
- **March 12:** CDHS' Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) [published additional guidance](#) for:
 - Behavioral health facilities – regarding emergency preparedness plans, telemedicine options, billing and closure notification.
 - Opioid treatment programs – regarding emergency preparedness, supplies and extended hours.

- Colorado crisis services in dispatching mobile response – regarding screening questions and response.

OBH also created [an online form](#) to submit questions regarding OBH guidance related to COVID-19