

Medicaid During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Q: Can my Medicaid be cut off during the pandemic?

A: Not in most cases. If you had Medicaid on March 18, 2020, your Medicaid will not be cut off during the pandemic, unless you ask Job and Family Services to end your Medicaid coverage or move out of the state. Your Medicaid should not be cut off for any other reason until the end of the pandemic emergency period. If your Medicaid has been cut off, please call Legal Aid immediately at 513-241-9400.

Q: Can I still apply for Medicaid?

A: Yes. Job and Family Services has made it easier to apply for Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can apply for Medicaid:

- Online at www.benefits.ohio.gov
- By calling 1-844-640-OHIO (6446)
- By Mail. You can print the application at www.benefits.ohio.gov and return it by mail or at the drop box at your county Department of Job and Family Services office.

Job and Family Services should let you know if your Medicaid has been approved within forty-five (45) days after you apply. If you do not hear back from Job and Family Services after forty-five days, you can call Legal Aid at 513-241-9400 and we will see if we can help you.

Q: I don't know the answers to all the questions on the application. Should I still apply?

A: Yes. Job and Family Services will let you know if they need any more information from you after you have applied.

Q: Do I still have to recertify?

A: Yes. You should complete your Medicaid renewal packet when you get it. During the pandemic, your Medicaid should not be stopped if you do not complete the packet. If you do not complete the renewal packet, your Medicaid coverage may get terminated when the pandemic emergency period ends.

Q: I think I have the coronavirus. Will I have to pay to get tested?

A: Probably not. Medicaid will cover testing for coronavirus if your doctor thinks you need to be tested for it. Ohio has also made free testing available in some areas. . You can find more information about testing sites in Ohio here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/other-resources/testing-centers>.

Q: If I get the coronavirus, will I have to pay for treatment if I have Medicaid?

A: No. Medicaid will cover all costs related to treatment for coronavirus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: I need to see my doctor, but I am worried about going to their office. What can I do?

A: Call your doctor and see if you can get treatment through “telehealth” (by phone or computer). Many different types of treatment providers (doctors, therapists, nurse practitioners) are able to see patients through “telehealth” services right now. In most cases, Medicaid will pay for “telehealth treatment” as if you were going to the doctor in person.

Q: If I have Medicaid, will I have to pay to get vaccinated against the coronavirus?

A: No, Medicaid should cover the cost of the vaccine.

Q: If I do not qualify for Medicaid, can I buy insurance through the Federal Marketplace?

A: Yes . Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the federal government set up the Federal Marketplace where people can buy insurance. You may qualify for special tax rebates and other help paying the premiums. Usually you can only sign up through the Federal Marketplace during certain months of the year, but the open enrollment period has been extended to May 15, 2021. You can look for plans and sign up at www.Healthcare.gov.

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If you have questions or need legal assistance, please call the
Legal Aid line at **(513) 241-9400**
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