DHS Ends the Medical Assistance for COVID-19 Testing of Uninsured Individuals Coverage Group

TOPIC
The Medical Assistance (MA) for COVID-19 Testing of Uninsured Individuals coverage group ends effective May 11, 2023.

PURPOSE
This bulletin announces the end of the MA for COVID-19 Testing of Uninsured Individuals coverage group effective May 11, 2023.

CONTACT
County and tribal agencies should submit eligibility policy questions via HealthQuest.
All others should direct questions to the following:
Health Care Eligibility and Access Division
PO Box 64989
540 Cedar Street
St Paul, MN 55164-0989

SIGNED
Julie Marquardt
Interim Assistant Commissioner/Interim State Medicaid Director
Health Care Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE
The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.
I. Background
The Families First Coronavirus Response Act gave states the option to provide limited Medical Assistance (MA) coverage for COVID-19 testing and diagnosis to uninsured individuals during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The American Rescue Plan Act expanded the benefits for this group to include coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and treatment. The 2020 Minnesota legislature authorized this temporary MA coverage group effective May 1, 2020.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is planning to expire the COVID-19 public health emergency declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Services Act, at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. As a result, the MA Coverage for COVID-19 Testing for Uninsured Individuals also ends at the end of the day on May 11, 2023.

II. MA for COVID-19 Testing of Uninsured Individuals
Effective May 11, 2023, MA for COVID-19 Testing for Uninsured Individuals will end. Enrollees will have coverage through the end of the day on May 11, 2023 and will receive a 30-day advance notice announcing the end of their coverage. The notice will include information about how to apply for other Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

III. Action Required
DHS Health Care Consumer Support (HCCS) will end coverage for COVID-19 Testing for Uninsured Individuals enrollees effective May 11, 2023. County and tribal agencies do not need to take any action to end coverage for these enrollees. Agencies should process any new MHCP applications following standard policies and procedures.

IV. Legal Authority
Section 6004 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law Number 116-127)
Section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law Number 117-2)
Laws of Minnesota 2020, Regular Session, Chapter 74, Article 1, Section 11

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory
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