



Changes to Virginia Medicaid/FAMIS Programs to Ensure Coverage and Care During COVID-19

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) moved quickly to identify and remove potential policy and program barriers, to maximize availability of Medicaid/FAMIS coverage during the public health emergency (PHE)*:

- **Most Medicaid members will remain covered for the duration of the PHE,*** unless the member:
 - 1) Requests for his/her case to be closed,
 - 2) Dies, or
 - 3) Permanently moves out of state.
- **Exceptions: FAMIS-enrolled children** may lose coverage upon turning 19. **FAMIS Plus (Medicaid)-enrolled children** who are lawfully-residing non-citizens, but are not considered “qualified aliens,” may lose coverage upon turning 19.
- Most **Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPW) members will remain covered after the 60-day postpartum period ends** (*exception: MPW members who are lawfully-residing non-citizens, but are not considered “qualified aliens”*). **FAMIS MOMS** members should be re-evaluated for eligibility in another Medicaid/FAMIS category at 60 days postpartum. **FAMIS Prenatal Coverage** will end at 60 days postpartum.
- If a Virginia Medicaid member is **temporarily living in another state** during the PHE, the member **stays enrolled** in Virginia Medicaid.
- **Co-pays have been eliminated for Medicaid/FAMIS-covered services.**
- The **appeal process has been modified to increase flexibility** (*keep coverage while appeal is pending, phone hearings, can reschedule hearings*).
- **Out-of-network authorization** requirements have been relaxed.
- Use of **telehealth** (*phone and video visits*) is billable and encouraged. Telehealth and technical requirements are relaxed.
- Members can fill a **90-day supply** of many routine prescriptions.
- **No pre-approvals are needed** and approval extensions are automatic for many critical medical services.
- **COVID-19 stimulus checks** (*Economic Impact Payments from the IRS*), and **additional federal unemployment do not count** as income for Medicaid/FAMIS.

For up-to-date information on Medicaid/FAMIS during COVID-19, go to CoverVa.Org/en/Covid-19.

**The Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration is currently set to expire in January 2022. Some provisions outlined above may last beyond the end of the PHE.*

Questions? Email signupnow@vhcf.org, or call 804-828-6062.