



BCBS Telehealth Extension



Due to COVID-19, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama expanded telehealth services until December 31, 2020. BCBS will continue to evaluate to determine whether a further extension is needed.

For complete information, refer to the [Telehealth Billing Guide](#). This guide details the eligible providers and services included in the telehealth coverage expansion for each of these categories:

- Blue Advantage® - Telehealth services will continue through the Public Health Emergency set to expire July 25, 2020, unless otherwise extended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Blue Cross
- Facility/Hospital
- Federal Employee Program (FEP)

Only the codes listed in the [Telehealth Billing Guide](#) should be submitted for these expanded telehealth services.

Please note that for most Blue Cross members, the cost-sharing waiver for telehealth services filed with a non-COVID-19-related diagnosis code will end July 31, 2020.

Always check eligibility and benefits through ProviderAccess or your practice management system to confirm coverage and cost-sharing details for your patients.

For behavioral health billing and coding guidelines specific to this telehealth expansion, refer to the [New Directions Behavioral Health telehealth expansion memo](#).

[See more Information Here](#)

Statement from the Medical Association on Statewide Mask Requirement



MANDATED IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths throughout the state have been increasing at a dangerous rate. We now have over 58,225 cases and approximately 1,183 deaths from COVID-19 in our state. With physicians on the front lines of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Medical Association of Alabama, the state's largest professional organization of physicians, announced their support of Governor Kay Ivey's new [amended 'Safer at Home' order](#).

[Read the Statement on NewsCenter](#)

ADPH Develops COVID-19 Risk Indicator Dashboard



A color-coded health guidance system has been developed by the State of Alabama to guide health behaviors for individuals and businesses. Categories: Very High (red), High (orange), Moderate (yellow), and Low (green) indicate the risk of spread in the community. Each level of the dial is guided by a rigorous measurement system which can be different by county.

High-risk individuals in the red risk category, including older adults and those who are immunocompromised, should continue to follow stricter protocols, and exercise all possible caution. Individuals who work or live with persons in high-risk categories should also continue following stricter guidance.

[See the Dashboard at ADPH's Website](#)

Small Business COVID-19 Grant Program Available



This week, Governor Ivey announced the Revive Alabama grant program to support small businesses, including physician practices, in Alabama that have been impacted by COVID-19. The program will reimburse practices for expenses they have incurred due to interruptions in business activity caused by the pandemic.

Practices that qualify as small businesses may receive up to \$15,000 to reimburse expenses as a result of the pandemic. However, there are several factors that will determine the eligibility of a practice.

[See the full story on NewsCenter](#)

Lesson from the COVID-19 Front Line: Dr. George Koulianos



Dr. George Koulianos, the founder and medical director of The Center for Reproductive Medicine in Mobile, joined us to discuss the Coronavirus hotspots across the state and how the city of Mobile is responding.

Dr. Koulianos addresses how to create a unified response to COVID-19, getting involved in the political process and the creation of a Chief Medical Officer Committee.

[Watch the interview here](#)

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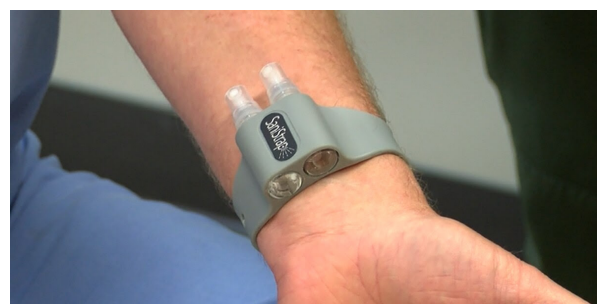
Over 60,000 coronavirus cases in Alabama

The number of coronavirus cases in Alabama is now above 60,000.

The Alabama Department of Public Health's July 16 10 a.m. numbers show 60,158 COVID-19 cases in Alabama, an increase of 1,933 overnight. The state has 1,200 COVID deaths, up 17 overnight.

The state has listed 550,179 coronavirus tests, with 151,163 of those reported in the last two weeks. Of the recent tests, 18,717 have been positive.

[Read the story at AL.com](#)



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OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

COVID-19

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