

Medical Association Update | July 21, 2020

Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 4:10 PM



Medicaid COVID-19 Emergency Expiration Date Extended to August 31st



All previously published expiration dates related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency are once again extended by the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid). The new expiration date is the earlier of August 31, 2020, the conclusion of the COVID-19 National emergency, or any expiration date noticed by the Alabama Medicaid Agency through a subsequent ALERT.

A listing of previous Provider Alerts and notices related to the health emergency is **available here** by selecting the Agency's COVID-19 page in the bottom section.

See the full alert here

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 <u>Telehealth Billing Guide</u>. 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 <u>Telehealth Billing Guide</u> 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

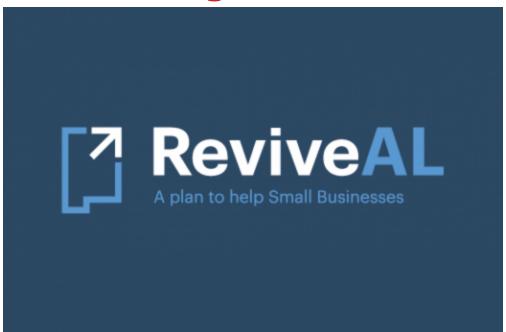
Statement from the Medical Association on Statewide Mask Requirement



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 <u>amended 'Safer at Home' order</u>.

Read the Statement on NewsCenter

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







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