

Provider Relations Newsletter

May 2023

Update to Provider COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

As a reminder, the federal COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11th, 2023.

WHAT'S CHANGING:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 99072:

Due to the scheduled end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest will no longer reimburse providers for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) under CPT code 99072.

COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and treatment (therapeutics) will be covered like any other condition:

- COVID-19 vaccines will be covered under preventive benefits at applicable plan cost sharing, typically \$0.
- COVID-19 PCR testing will be covered under the outpatient diagnostic lab benefit at applicable plan cost sharing.
- COVID-19 over the counter (OTC) antigen tests will not be covered consistent with current plan coverage that does not cover OTC tests.
- COVID-19 treatment will be covered under the drug benefit with applicable plan cost sharing.
- Out-of-network (OON) services for COVID-19 (for example, OTC antigen tests, treatment, and vaccines) on HMO and EPO plans will only be covered for urgent care and emergency services, when legally required, or when OON coverage is included in a Kaiser Permanente member's plan.

*Self-funded customers will follow all the changes outlined above unless the plan sponsor requests different coverage for COVID-19 related services.

For additional details about the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency, please visit account.kp.org.

Questions: Contact NW-Provider-Relations@kp.org

WHAT'S NOT CHANGING:

Telehealth Services:

Currently Kaiser encourages members to be access telehealth services when appropriate. We also recognize that some members may now wish to be seen in person. Kaiser is not limiting all visits to be in person or to be virtual and we ask that you do what is best for the patient.

Please note, all members (Commercial, Individual and Family, Medicare and Medicaid) are covered for telehealth visits. While most members receive no charge for telehealth visits, please use Online Affiliate to confirm the cost sharing for High Deductible Health Plan/HSA-qualified members who must first meet their deductible for telehealth visits unrelated to COVID-19 diagnosis and testing.