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## **Emergency MaineCare Benefit Covers COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Testing and Treatment**

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COVID-19 is the name for the disease caused by the new coronavirus. Undocumented non-citizens may receive services, at no cost, to test for and treat COVID-19 through “Emergency MaineCare.”

### **What is Emergency MaineCare?**

Emergency MaineCare allows people who do not have full MaineCare coverage to get health care services to treat an emergency medical condition. Services do not have to be provided in an Emergency Department or at a hospital.

Typically, an emergency medical condition is one that comes on suddenly and is severe. Without immediate medical attention, the result could be:

- Serious risk to your health;
- Serious damage to your body; or
- Serious dysfunction of your body.

COVID-19 qualifies as an emergency medical condition. Testing and treatment for the illness can be covered under Emergency MaineCare because COVID-19 can cause serious risk to your health and serious bodily damage and dysfunction.

### **Is testing and treatment for COVID-19 covered under Emergency MaineCare?**

Yes. Testing for COVID-19 and necessary services related to treating COVID-19 are covered at no cost. Examples of treatments that are covered for COVID-19 include hospitalization, home health services, and respiratory treatments.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after someone has been exposed to the virus. Symptoms may include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Other less common symptoms have been reported like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

## What should you do if you have COVID-19 symptoms?

**Severe symptoms are an emergency:** You should seek **immediate medical attention** if you or a family member experience any of these emergency warning signs of COVID-19:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

**If you have any of the above symptoms, call 911 or call ahead to your local hospital Emergency Department.** Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

**Symptoms that need a doctor's care:** If your symptoms are not severe like those listed above, but they are serious enough to require a visit to a health care provider, **call ahead before you go** to the health care provider's office or the clinic. You will not want to spread the virus, so they may have special instructions for you.

**Mild symptoms:** If your symptoms are mild and do not require a visit to a health care provider, you should self-isolate at home. Information about how to self-isolate can be found [here](#).

## What should you do if you don't have a regular health care provider?

If you are sick and need to be tested for COVID-19 but do not have a primary care provider, you can visit an urgent care or walk-in facility for care and testing. If you are unsure about testing locations in your area, please look for a [community health center](#) near you or call your local hospital.

Remember, always call before you arrive to ask if they do COVID-19 testing and to let the office know you are coming.

## Who is covered by Emergency MaineCare?

Emergency MaineCare is for any non-citizen who does not qualify for full MaineCare benefits, either because of their immigration status or because they are undocumented. Not all documented immigration statuses are eligible for MaineCare.

## When and How to Apply for Emergency MaineCare

If you are having a COVID-19 medical emergency, seek care immediately. You can apply for coverage later.

To receive Emergency MaineCare coverage, you must apply through the DHHS Office for Family Independence. You can apply any time, and you have up to three months from the date you received health care services to apply for this coverage. For example, if you were tested for COVID-19 on March 30, 2020, you have until June 30, 2020 to submit an application and receive coverage for your March 30<sup>th</sup> test.

You can apply [online](#) or by [downloading the application](#) and submitting it through [email](#), fax (207-778-8429), or mail (Office for Family Independence, 114 Corn Shop Lane, Farmington, ME 04938).

**Consumers for Affordable Health Care** is available to help individuals complete the application process, and they can be contacted by calling **1-800-965-7476**.

If you apply and qualify for this coverage after you received COVID-19 testing or other emergency health care services, be sure to tell the billing department where you received services that you have qualified so they can bill MaineCare. Once your coverage is active, you should not have to pay a bill for emergency services you receive while your coverage is active. If you receive a bill in error, you should call your provider.

### **Emergency MaineCare and Public Charge**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has confirmed that testing, treatment, or preventive care for COVID-19 will not be considered as part of public charge decisions. For more information, please review this [fact sheet](#), created by Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) and Maine Equal Justice.

### **Questions?**

You may call MaineCare Member Services at 1-800-977-6740. TTY users, dial 711. Interpreters are available if needed.

### **Helpful Resources**

- Maine CDC's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about COVID-19
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 General [Information](#) (multiple languages)
- [ILAP's COVID-19 webpage](#)
- Maine Equal Justice's [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Consumers for Affordable Health Care](#)