

COVID Strikes Kids HEALTH Call

March 24, 2020 Agenda

I. Updates

1) WIC

- **Established and NEW** pregnant women and babies can get WIC. All transactions are being done over the phone except for loading eWIC cards.
- See attached notices for Philadelphia and Delaware County.

2) SSI benefits and hearings update - Kristen Dama, CLS

3) Telemedicine: Access for clients and payment for providers

- For perinatal care – message from DHS: Physicians and nurse midwives will be able to provide perinatal care for low-risk/normal OB patients via telemedicine and high-risk OB patients would be seen in person. The intent is to allow providers flexibility during the emergency declaration to use telehealth to provide services they may have otherwise provided face-to-face. DHS plans to issue additional guidance related to telehealth in the near future.
- For pediatric care – message from the PA AAP: They are hosting a telemedicine webinar for their members tomorrow, March 25. They've sent a joint letter with the American College of Physicians to the governor urging a mandate on parity for reimbursement. Their Pediatric Council meets this Friday, March 27, so more information will be out soon.
- Find current PA DHS telemedicine guidance [here](#).
- The National Assoc of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners published a list of national resources on setting up telehealth [here](#) including from the Center for Connected Health Policy and the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers.

4) Access to child primary care and behavioral health

- Most child primary and behavioral health care sites in the region are open for business via telemedicine.
- PCCY is finalizing resource documents we will have translated into multiple languages.

5) Insurance navigators open for business

- See attached list of known sites.
- **All PA CAO Offices are closed, but the state is still processing Medicaid, CHIP and other public benefit applications via COMPASS.*

6) How do recipients handle SNAP and Medicaid termination notices? And is there now written DHS guidance about waiving requirement for verifying documents to renew SNAP and Medicaid renewals?

**Updates 7 – 9 are from Lydia Gottesfeld at CLS with a message that this all pretty recent news, things are changing quickly and staff in the CAOs are doing the best they can under the circumstances.*

7) MA termination notices:

- There will be a moratorium on all MA terminations as of the date the Families First Act passed (3/18/20). DHS is working to make sure no MA terminations as of that date. They are working behind the scenes to make sure that happens even for people who may have already received shut off notices or were terminated after that date. If the notice they received was for termination before that date, they should appeal (though, if that was the case they probably missed the appeal deadline and may need to ask for reconsideration or reapply).
- **DHS is accepting self-attestation for all verification for MA except citizenship status.**

8) SNAP termination notices

- **There is no similar moratorium on SNAP terminations.** DHS got approval TODAY to push back all certification periods 6 months. If someone received a notice to recertify, they can fill it out, but failure to do so will not result in a termination. If they got a termination notice, they should appeal (by phone).
- Regarding documentation – currently DHS is still asking recipients to try to get verification. If they can't, workers are supposed to do a collateral contact, and if that doesn't work, take self-attestation as verification. It is very unclear how this will work in reality. If the recipient submits an appeal and cannot get whatever documentation was needed or is requested, they should tell the caseworker that at the outset. Generally, they have said they will not cut people off SNAP for failure to provide information, but will do so if they get information that affirmatively proves they are ineligible.

9) SNAP and MA Renewals

- As stated above, SNAP renewals are all being pushed back. This news literally came out today so there is no written guidance on that yet. **But to be clear, for new applications for SNAP, applicants will be asked to submit verification. It is really unclear how the process I have outlined above will work, so we would urge people to say at the outset if they cannot obtain verification.**
- We assume MA renewals will also be pushed back because they cannot cut anyone off but have not confirmed this and hope to do so tomorrow.

10) Has PA CHIP confirmed whether it plans to waive CHIP premiums and co-payments as allowed by the feds?

11) What updates do you have about increasing access to non-emergency medical transport?

II. New Challenges / Issues

- 1) Are your families concerned about free food resources?
- 2) What are your top concerns and your families' top concerns?

III. Announcements

- 1) New www.pccy.org/covid webpage with up to date resources for providers and parents.
- 2) PCCY health resources coming soon:
 - a. A resource list of open primary care sites that see a high share of immigrant clients
 - b. A call on health care access for immigrant communities – stay tuned.
 - c. A resource list on access to child behavioral health care
- 3) PA Health Access Network (PHAN) and CLS are holding a “Deep Dive into Public Benefits” webinar tomorrow, March 24 at 11:00. Email info@pahealthaccess.org to join in.
- 4) PHAN has also published an extensive resource document on public benefits they are regularly updating [here](#).
- 5) Two new PCCY virtual education campaigns:
 - a. [#TEACHOURKIDS](#) – A virtual protest to help avoid an educational crisis for students as they shelter-in-place
 - b. [#kidsgetitright](#) – To engage kids in service to thank #frontlineheros – nurses, docs and other folks.
- 6) Please share stories of experiences of children who are undocumented accessing health care with Colleen at colleenm@pccy.org or 215-298-2027.
- 7) Your announcement here . . .

IV. Next Call Date