



## Coronavirus Updates & Information

### Questions and Answers - Individuals & Families

**February 2, 2021**

***Primary caregivers for persons with severe chronic medical conditions or with intellectual or developmental disabilities requiring a high level of daily care are now in Phase 1a for the COVID19 vaccine. Contact your local Health Dept. to register.***

**Q: How can I get the COVID19 vaccination?**

**A:** Information about the COVID19 vaccination program changes often. Each Health Department in Virginia is responsible for managing their vaccine program. Different Health Departments have different ways of registering people to get vaccinated. To find out how and when you can get vaccinated contact your local Health Department.

**Q: How can I find my local Health Department?**

**A:** Go to: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/>

**Q: How can I find out if I am eligible for the vaccination?**

**A:** Go to <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>

**Q: How can I find out when there are changes about when people can get vaccinated?**

**A:** The Arc of Virginia posts information about vaccine changes for the people with disabilities and their families/caregivers on our Facebook as soon as we are aware. Also visit the VA Dept. of Health website. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

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**Do You Have Other Questions?** To submit your question, please email [info@thearcofva.org](mailto:info@thearcofva.org)

## **Medicaid Health Insurance**

### **Q: What are the changes for Medicaid Health Insurance?**

A: Prescriptions and Supplies - most may be filled for up to a 90 day supply.

Refills - "too soon" edits are not required for all drugs prescribed for 34 days or less.

Co-payments - no drug co-payments.

Medicaid Eligibility Protection - No one will lose Medicaid during the Emergency.

Note: Patient Pay is still required.

Medicaid **Adult Dental Benefit** effective July 1, 2021. Ask your dentist to become a Medicaid Dental provider.

### **Q: Does Medicaid require Face-to-Face(in-person) for evaluations, assessments and service planning meetings during the Emergency?**

A: All face-to-face requirements including assessments, reassessments and care planning meetings are waived, with the exception of situations where there is concern about the person's health, safety and welfare. Face-to-face meetings are replaced with telephone calls or other telephonic means.

### **Q: Is PPE (personal protective equipment) (masks, gloves etc) covered by Medicaid for Medicaid Members, waiver users and service providers?**

A: No, personal protective equipment is not covered by Medicaid.

### **Q: My brother is in the hospital and due to the Coronavirus no visitors are allowed including family and his Waiver support staff which he desperately needs. Are there any allowances made for people with disabilities who need support?**

A: In November 2020, Virginia approved legislation that requires medical facilities licensed by the VA Dept. of Health to allow designated persons to accompany and visit a person with a disability who needs assistance during a public health emergency due to COVID-19.

## **Behavioral/Mental Health Crisis Services**

### **Q: Will I be able to get my counseling and psychiatric services during this Emergency?**

A: Yes, you may have your counseling and psychiatric services by telephone or telehealth.

### **Q: My family member with a developmental disability is having more behavioral and mental health challenges and it is nearing a crisis point. Who should I contact?**

A: If you have a Case Manager or Care Coordinator contact them now for resources. The [REACH](#) Program serves children and adults with developmental disabilities with behavioral and/or mental health challenges. At this time [REACH](#) will determine if they can respond as to whether they can respond in person or via telehealth.

## **What About My Job and Waiver Services?**

### **Q: What do I do if my job tells me I can not work through this Emergency?**

A: If you have a Case Manager/Support Coordinator call them. If you do not have a case manager call the agency that provides your other waiver services for assistance or your Care Coordinator. If you have a job coach, call your job coach. You may be eligible for unemployment benefits from the [Virginia Employment Commission](#).

**Q. Who can help me understand the [Virginia Unemployment Assistance](#)?**

A: If you have a job coach ask them for help. Unemployment income is complicated and how you are affected depends on your individual situation. If you don't have a job coach to help, contact the Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program for free, expert help. To find the program where you live: For Tidewater- Eastern Shore Call 757-461-8007 TTY 757-461-7527 or click [here](#). For the rest of of Virginia: 1-571-339-1305 or email: [mmorrison@vaaccses.org](mailto:mmorrison@vaaccses.org)

**Q: If I received VA Unemployment and I also got the additional pandemic unemployment income of \$600 per week, will I lose Medicaid? Will I lose my Medicaid Waiver services?**

A: No you will not lose either. The additional unemployment income amount of \$600.00/ week from the CARES Act that ended July 31, 2020, is not counted as part of your gross income for Medicaid. You will not lose your Medicaid or your Medicaid Waiver because of the additional \$600 per week. The unemployment income from Virginia **is** counted as unearned income.

**Q: What do I do if my waiver support staff doesn't show or are not able to come work with me?**

A: Call the agency that provides your services and let them know. You can also call your DD Case Manager/Support Coordinator, Services Facilitator or Care Coordinator.

**Early Intervention Services (0 thru 2 years)**

**Q: Will Early Intervention(EI) Services funded by Medicaid be provided during the Emergency?**

A: Yes, EI Services can continue. EI service providers may use telehealth or remote care delivery for ongoing services to include developmental services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology including monitoring of program and instructional implementation, coaching, treatment teaming and service plan development.

**Q: Can my child be assessed for Early Intervention Services?**

A: Yes. Assessments for new children (birth thru age 2) can be done on a limited basis in person or using synchronous telehealth technologies at the discretion of the EI Services provider with the consent of the family. Find [EI Services here](#).

**CCC Plus and Developmental Disability Medicaid Waiver Programs**

**Q: Who is eligible for Hazard Pay?**

A: Attendants and aides who provided personal care, respite or companion services anytime between March 12 - June 30, 2020 are eligible for a hazard payment of \$1,500.

The \$1,500 is the amount before any taxes are taken out.

This is a one-time payment due to Covid-19 and attendants only receive one payment regardless of how many people they worked with.

For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/y573ww4l> or Email:[hazardpay@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:hazardpay@dmas.virginia.gov).

**Q: Are personal care attendants eligible for overtime?**

A: Effective January 1, 2021, personal care attendants who do not live- in with the waiver user, may work up to 8 hours of overtime per week. However the attendant may not work over the waiver user's bi-weekly number of hours that are authorized.

**Q: Can parents of children under 18 and spouses of waiver users be paid as personal care attendants?**

A: Yes, parents of minor children and spouses and spouses may continue to be paid for only personal care until March 12, 2021.

A paid attendant/provider may not be the Employer of Record (EOR) for the same person using waiver services.

Individuals who are currently serving as the waiver person's back-up plan are not required to have a new back-up plan while they are the paid attendant during the Emergency.

\*\*\*\*Note: Respite services requirements have not changed - there must be an unpaid primary caregiver to be eligible for respite.

**Q: How do I start the process to become a paid consumer directed personal care attendant for my minor child or spouse?**

A: Contact your services facilitator, case manager/support coordinator or health care coordinator to discuss your situation and how to start the process.

**Q: When will the changes made to Medicaid Waivers due to the Emergency end and how will we know when they end?**

A: The individual changes/flexibilities end at different times depending on public health conditions. The Arc of VA updates this Q&A when changes occur.

**Q: Can I be screened for the [Developmental Disabilities](#) and/or the [CCC Plus](#) Medicaid Waiver programs during the Emergency?**

A: Yes, you may request screenings. The links above will help you find the screening agencies. The Arc of VA provides Waiver Mentoring to help people. E: [info@thearcofva.org](mailto:info@thearcofva.org)

**Q: Will anyone with a Medicaid Waiver lose their Medicaid Waiver during the Emergency?**

A: No one will lose their waiver during the Emergency.

**Q: If someone does not use any waiver services for more than 30 days, can they still keep their waiver?**

A: Yes people will still keep their waiver. Those who do not use a waiver service in a month will be monitored monthly by telehealth or phone. The CCC Plus Managed Health Care Plan will monitor its members. DMAS/Medicaid will monitor those not in a managed care plan.

**Q: I am eligible for unemployment benefits. If I become a (my child/adult's, or my spouse's) paid consumer directed personal care attendant will I lose my unemployment benefits?**

A: Yes, people who become employed will lose state unemployment benefits.

**Q: Are consumer directed(CD) employees eligible for unemployment benefits due to the Coronavirus?**

A: Yes, they are if they meet Virginia's requirements and rules for unemployment. Go to the Virginia Employment Commission's [website](#) for information about Coronavirus claims. EORs are encouraged to assist CD employees who become unemployed by directing them to the VEC and very importantly by notifying the fiscal agent.

**Q: I need more hours of consumer directed personal care /companion/respite care services. Who should I contact?**

A: Contact your Services Facilitator. If you have a case manager or care coordinator contact them also.

**Q: Are live-in caregivers required to use the EVV system? (Electronic Visit Verification)**

A: Live-in caregivers only, are not required to use EVV effective **January 1, 2021**. Follow requirements of the Fiscal Agent to be exempt from using EVV.

**Q: If an attendant temporarily moves into the home of a person with a waiver, will the attendant be considered live-in and receive the tax exemption during the Emergency?**

A: Yes, based on the attendant changing their address to their new residence with their fiscal agent. The attendant is considered “live-in”. Each individual's situation is different, the appropriate tax exemptions will apply based on information provided to the fiscal agent.

**Q: If a person with a waiver temporarily moves into the home of an attendant is the attendant eligible to receive the tax exemption during the Emergency?**

A: Yes, based on the person changing their address to match their new residence with the fiscal agent. The attendant will be considered “live-in”. Each individual's situation is different, the appropriate tax exemptions will apply based on information provided to the fiscal agent.

**Q: If a parent of a minor or spouse was the Employer of Record (EOR), then became the paid attendant during the Emergency, when the Emergency is over will the parent/spouse automatically revert back to be the EOR?**

A: As of 8.11.2020, DMAS expects that there will be some documentation required; DMAS does not anticipate that the original EOR will have to fill out a completely new packet.

**DD Medicaid Waiver Program Only**

**Q: Are residential providers (group homes, sponsored residential) allowed to deny visitors?**

A: Yes, residential providers may deny visitors to minimize the spread of infection through the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q. Are case management/support coordination face to face visits going to be allowed to be received by phone or telehealth?**

A: Yes

**Q: Will people on the DD Waiver be required to have face-to-face(in person) meetings for annual plan meetings, the VIDES and the SIS?**

A: No, these activities may be completed by telephone or telehealth.

**Q: What DD Waiver services can be provided through electronic or telehealth means?**

A: In-Home Support, Community Engagement, Community Coaching, Group Day, and Therapeutic Consultation that does not require direct intervention by the provider can be provided through electronic or telehealth means until March 12, 2021.

**Q: What changes to DD Waivers were approved by the Governor in November 2020?**

- A: - 250 DD Waivers Slots reinstated, bringing total slots to 1,385 slots for July 2020-June 2022.
- Rate Increases effective January 2021: Group Home (6.8%), Sponsored Residential (6.2%), Group Day (4.6%)
  - Rate Increases eff. July 2021: Community Coaching (6.6%), Comm. Engagement (5.4%) In-Home (6.6%), Independent Living (6.2%),

Supported Living (7.2%), Group Suppt. Employment (4.7%)  
Therapeutic Consultation (8.2%) Workplace Assistance (6.4%).

- Retainer Payments for: Group Day, Community Engagement and Community Coaching.
- Support Payments for: Group Homes, Supported Living and Sponsored Residential providers.

### **Stimulus Check/ Rebate Check/Economic Impact Payments**

(all names for the same thing)

#### **Q: Who is eligible for the Stimulus money?**

**A:** The payments are available to many people, even people who do not make enough money to file taxes usually. People who are not eligible are: those who are undocumented, lack Social Security numbers, file with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, or adults who were claimed as dependents.

**\*NOTE:** If you became eligible for Social Security or Social Security Income since January 1, 2020, and did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019, you will need to go to the IRS's Non-Filers website to enter your information to receive your Stimulus money. [Free File: File Your Taxes Online for Free](#).

#### **Q: Will the Stimulus money make me lose my benefits?**

**A:** The Stimulus money does NOT affect your Social Security, SSI, SNAP or Medicaid benefits. The Stimulus money must be spent within one year of receiving the money or it will count as a resource and may affect your eligibility for Medicaid and SSI.

#### **Q: I have a representative payee for my SSI/Social Security benefits. How can I spend my Stimulus money? What do I need to know?**

**A:** Your Stimulus money may have been sent to the account that your representative payee manages or your representative payee will receive a check or a prepaid debit card in the mail. The payment belongs to you, not your representative payee.

- Your representative payee should discuss your payment with you. If you want to use the payment without your rep. payee's involvement then your rep. payee should give you the stimulus payment.
- If you want help deciding how to spend it or save (ABLE account) the payment you can ask your rep. payee or someone else you trust to help you.
- **The payment must be used within a year from when you receive it so that it will not affect your eligibility for benefits.**
- Take your time to decide how you want to spend your stimulus money. You may use it for something you dream about doing, pay bills, get dental treatment or you may even save it in an [ABLE](#) account.
- Be very careful about scams.
- Stimulus money is NOT a Social Security benefit and it is not a SSI benefit.

\*A Note for representative payees - Representative payees are not required to account for the Stimulus on the annual Representative Payee Report because the Stimulus is not a Social Security payment and it is not an SSI payment.

#### **Q: My adult daughter received a stimulus payment. Because we claim her on our taxes she should not have received this. How do I return it to the IRS?**

**A:** To return the stimulus payment to the IRS, go to this [website](#) that has instructions on how to return the payment according to the way it was received - direct deposit, paper check etc.

## **Do You Have Other Questions?**

The Arc of Virginia is collecting questions from people who use services, and then seeking answers to those questions from the State and relevant departments, and posting them here.

To submit your question, please email [info@thearcofva.org](mailto:info@thearcofva.org), subject coronavirus.