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**Temporary Eligibility and Program Changes**  
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In furthering the mission of the Department of Health and Human Services and our commitment to support the basic needs of the individual and families we serve, the following changes have been made to programs within the Department as we continue to navigate through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This document focuses on program eligibility changes due to COVID-19. This document updates information last published on April 17, 2020.

As the Department receives additional guidance, this will be amended and posted on the DHHS and COVID-19 websites.

**MEDICAID:**

Under the authority provided by the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA), the Department has opted to implement a new Medicaid program specifically to cover COVID-19 testing services for individuals who either do not have insurance or are enrolled in a limited benefit Medicaid eligibility group (i.e. individuals eligible for family planning and related services or individuals eligible as medically needy with a spenddown). In addition, applicants must provide a social security number and self-attest to being a resident of New Hampshire and either a US Citizen or having a qualifying immigration status. There is no income or resource test for this group.

Covered testing services include telehealth or in-person screening for the COVID-19 test, specimen collection and testing, and antibody testing. This Medicaid eligibility group does not cover treatment or medication for COVID-19 and does not cover any other services other than the COVID-19 testing services. Applications can be filled out and submitted directly on NH Easy at <https://nheasy.nh.gov> as of June 1, 2020.

- Beginning March 18, 2020 and through the end of the month that the Federal Public Health Emergency is over:
  - Individuals will remain enrolled regardless of changes in circumstances, unless the following exceptions apply: person moves out of state, person voluntarily chooses to end coverage, or the person passes away;

For the new Medicaid COVID-19 testing coverage program noted above, the coverage will end on the day the Federal Public Health Emergency ends.

- To the extent that the Department receives or becomes aware of information that indicates a change in circumstance that would normally result in an action requiring follow-up, the Department will take no action during this time of federal emergency, unless one of the above exceptions applies;
- Passive redeterminations will continue to be systematically processed by the Department and the redetermination date will be advanced by one year. Other redeterminations will be delayed without worker action.

### **SNAP:**

- The Department has continued SNAP eligibility for six months without requiring a redetermination for households due a redetermination from March – July 2020.

If the Department becomes aware of information that may change eligibility; the Department is required to take action and will reach out to the recipient for follow-up.

- Continued eligibility follows the State of Emergency for the State of NH and is decided monthly. The Department applies each month to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) for this continuation.
- The Department has received approval to provide Pandemic EBT to families who are SNAP households and Non-SNAP households with children eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch program and whose school is closed greater than 5 consecutive days due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Households currently receiving SNAP benefits are automatically eligible and P-EBT benefits will be added onto their existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. A household must be receiving a benefit and not just open for SNAP to have the benefit added to their existing EBT card.

Households that do not receive SNAP benefits will need to complete a brief application on NH EASY (<https://nheasy.nh.gov>).

Once a completed application has been validated, non-SNAP households will get a preloaded SNAP (P-EBT) card in the name of the parent/guardian of the child/ children. Parents/caregivers will have 90 days to apply for P-EBT benefits. The application deadline is August 24, 2020.

- The Department has been approved for the Online Purchasing Pilot Waiver for SNAP benefits. This will allow people to use their EBT Card for online food purchases and delivery with Amazon and Walmart. The availability for this service is targeted to begin on July 1, 2020 and information will be shared later this month.
- The Department received approval for the Supplemental benefit. Beginning with the April the SNAP benefit, recipients will receive a Supplemental benefit, a full month of SNAP benefits at the maximum household allotment for the following households:

- Full month recipients;
- Partial-month recipients; and
- Recipients whose income reduces their regular SNAP monthly allotment.

This benefit is tied to State of Emergency for the State of NH. It is determined monthly and will be issued for the month of June.

- Beginning March 18, 2020, the Department will temporarily suspend the work requirement for Able-Bodied Adults until the Federal State of Emergency has ended.

### **TANF:**

- The Department will continue TANF eligibility for six months without requiring a redetermination for six months from March 18, 2020 through July 31, 2020. If the Department becomes aware of information that may change eligibility; the Department is required to take action and will reach out to the recipient for follow-up.

### **CHILD CARE:**

- Beginning March 18, 2020 and through July 31, 2020 continued eligibility for child care scholarship will be continued.
- Applications for the NH Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Program (CCRSP) are being accepted for Emergency Child Care Programs until June 11, 2020. Information can be found on the Child Care Aware of NH website, <http://nh.childcareaware.org/ccrsp-application/>.

The Department continues to evaluate the need for additional waivers and federal flexibilities, and will continue to do so throughout the COVID-19 emergency. Any updates and changes to this document will be made weekly and posted on the DHHS and COVID-19 websites.

