



Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

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Contact: Christina Nuckols
christina.nuckols@dmas.virginia.gov

400,000 Virginians Enrolled in Health Coverage Through Medicaid Expansion

*~Thousands of Virginia adults whose jobs are affected by
COVID-19 have access to care ~*

Richmond – The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) today announced that more than 400,000 adults are now enrolled and receiving health services because of expanded eligibility rules that took effect in January 2019.

“We could never envision that we would reach this milestone amid a historic health emergency, but the timing is a reminder of the importance of state leaders’ decision to expand this vital program,” said DMAS Director Karen Kimsey. “Medicaid is an essential tool in the Commonwealth’s response to COVID-19. Thousands of individuals are experiencing the loss of employment and insurance, and we want them to know that we are here to help them access health care during this critical time.”

More than 372,300 newly eligible adults have used their coverage to obtain health care services, including 302,400 who filled prescriptions and 288,100 who contacted a doctor. Many new Medicaid members are using their coverage to treat chronic conditions, including 53,700 with high blood pressure, 29,700 with diabetes, 12,000 with asthma, 8,800 with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 6,700 with cancer. Another 26,300 have received treatment for substance use disorder.

In response to the spread of COVID-19 in Virginia, the Medicaid agency initiated a series of policies to increase access to care for its 1.5 million members. They include:

- Ensuring members do not inadvertently lose coverage due to lapses in paperwork or a change in circumstances; this policy includes the continuation of all coverage renewals and eligibility redeterminations.
- Eliminating co-pays for all Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) covered services, including COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- Allowing Medicaid members to obtain a 90-day supply of many routine prescriptions.
- Waiving pre-approval requirements for many critical medical services, and enacting automatic extensions for approvals that are already in place.
- Enabling Medicaid providers and members to make greater use of telehealth.

DMAS is continuing to develop new strategies to support providers as they serve Medicaid members during this time.

Virginians who need health coverage can visit coverva.org to find out if they may be eligible for Medicaid. They can apply for health coverage at any time by going online to commonhelp.virginia.gov.

Visitors to the DMAS agency website, dmas.virginia.gov, can follow [trends in enrollment](#) of newly eligible adults and [use of medical services](#) through interactive dashboards that include data for individual localities.

A new dashboard launched today tracks enrollment in Medicaid and FAMIS for all eligibility categories. More than 1.5 million Virginians have health coverage through Medicaid. Although Medicaid expansion has increased access for adults, the largest number of Medicaid members are children, with 684,000 enrolled.

[Information and frequently asked questions about COVID-19](#) and Medicaid are available online. Individuals can subscribe to regular updates on Medicaid's response to COVID-19 by visiting the [agency website](#) or coverva.org, or by texting COVID19 to 268-782.

DMAS staff collaborated to create a video recognizing the 400,000 expansion enrollment milestone as well as the increased need for health coverage in Virginia due to COVID-19. The video is being shared through the agency's social media accounts, [CoverVA on Facebook](#), and [@coverva](#) and [@VaMedicaidDir](#) on Twitter.