



13-2020

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ALL-EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 24, 2020

**EMPLOYEE MEDICAL HEALTH PLAN OF SUFFOLK COUNTY (EMHP)**

**UPDATES TO THE PLAN IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

As part of our continuing effort to provide our members with important updates regarding the Employee Medical Health Plan of Suffolk County (EMHP), the Labor/Management Committee, which oversees the EMHP, would like to provide you with important information regarding recently implemented changes to the EMHP, in compliance with federal law, and in the interest of members and their families. The changes are in effect only for so long as the declaration of a public health emergency, or until otherwise notified.

In compliance with federal law, and **effective March 18, 2020**, the EMHP shall provide coverage without charging any cost sharing (i.e., deductibles, copayments and coinsurance requirements) for the following:

1. Diagnostic tests to detect the presence of, or serological tests that detect antibodies against, the virus that causes COVID-19. These tests include the following:
  - tests to detect the virus that are approved, cleared or authorized by certain sections of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (the Drug Act);
  - tests for which “the developer has requested or intends to request emergency use authorization” from the FDA (and where such authorization has not been denied);
  - tests that are “developed in or authorized by a State”; or
  - tests that are deemed appropriate by the Secretary of HHS.
2. Items and services furnished to individuals during provider office visits (which can be either in person or via telehealth, through a telehealth service or with any provider offering services via telehealth), urgent care visits, and emergency room visits that result in an order for, or the administration of, the test described in 1. above, but only to the extent such items or services relate to the furnishing or administration of the test or the evaluation of whether the person needs the test.

3. The coverage mandated above can be provided without prior authorization or any other medical management requirements, when deemed medically appropriate by the patient's provider.

**EMHP will waive the cost share for COVID-19 testing and associated in-network provider visit.**

In addition, the EMHP has made the following benefit plan revisions, in effect for 90 days, retroactive to March 18, 2020 through June 15, 2020:

1. Coverage for tele psychiatry irrespective of the ability of patient to access care (pre-authorizations for in-network providers and previous mileage limitation have been waived.) All care is subject to plan cost share. This benefit will continue to be administered by Beacon Health Options.
2. Coverage pursuant to plan guidelines of home births, as have been already covered by the plan although same will now be covered with no cost share in network.
3. Coverage for telephonic visits with providers other than Access Health for any medical reason, unless the visit results in an order for COVID-19 testing, shall be subject to plan copays, deductibles and coinsurance as applicable.
4. Waiver of the Emergency Room co-pay if a patient is presented with a COVID-19 diagnosis.
5. For prescriptions filled through either WellDyne or Express Scripts, the re-fill to soon rules have been temporarily suspended.

**AS A REMINDER**

**TELE-MEDICINE PROVIDER – ACCESS DISCOUNT HEALTHCARE**

**All EMHP Active and Retired Members and their eligible dependents can utilize Access Discount Healthcare (Access Plus) 24 hours/7 days a week and avoid the waiting room germs. Limit your exposure and talk to a board-certified doctor by video or phone from your home.** The reason for your visit is not limited to COVID-19. You can use this service for any medical issue, any time.

**THIS OPTION IS AT NO COST TO YOU.**

You can talk to a board-certified doctor by video or phone. Doctors are available anytime; day or night even on weekends and holidays. Prescriptions can be sent to your nearest pharmacy, if medically necessary.

By utilizing Access Discount Healthcare tele-health benefits you can avoid a visit to the Emergency Room, an Urgent Care or your doctor's office if you suspect you may have contracted COVID-19, therefore limiting the spread of the virus. Patients would still need to be tested for COVID-19 in person.

**TO GET STARTED AND SPEAK TO AN ACCESS PLUS PROVIDER TODAY  
CALL 1-800-709-8390 AND REGISTER YOURSELF AND YOUR DEPENDENTS.**

---

**2019 APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ADDITIONAL  
MEDICARE PART B MONTHLY PREMIUM**

We have heard that some of you are **not** able to have your signature notarized on the Additional Premium Application due to the COVID-19 healthcare crisis. Therefore, Suffolk County is extending the deadline for the submission of the ***2019 Application for Reimbursement of Additional Medicare Part B Monthly Premium*** to June 30, 2020.

Please be advised that upon receipt of your completed application, as well as all supporting documentation, EBU will process your Additional Premium reimbursement which will be included in a quarterly check sometime during this year.



---

Dennis M. Cohen  
Chief Deputy County Executive

Distribution:  
One copy per employee/retiree