

## **NCDHHS Launches No-Cost COVID-19 Testing Program for Uninsured North Carolinians**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) today launched the NC Medicaid Optional COVID-19 Testing program, which will reimburse Medicaid providers for costs associated with COVID-19 testing of individuals without insurance.

“This new program allows community providers to offer cost-free testing to uninsured North Carolinians. It’s a good step to decrease barriers to testing. However, to help North Carolinians who don’t have health insurance get the full range of care needed for COVID and to access needed preventive care, North Carolina needs to expand Medicaid like most other states have done,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, MD.

Funding will be available to cover 100% of costs directly related to COVID-19 testing, including both viral and serological or antibody tests, through a funding stream created by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act for states to distribute. In North Carolina, Medicaid-enrolled providers may file directly with NC Medicaid for reimbursement for testing eligible uninsured individuals. Costs for COVID-19 tests will be covered retroactively up to three months, provided individuals were uninsured at the time of the test.

In order to qualify for the program’s testing coverage, individuals must reside in North Carolina, may not be eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or have other health insurance and must hold U.S. citizenship as stipulated by federal regulations.

The reimbursement program will continue for as long as the COVID-19 federal declaration of emergency remains in effect. The NCDHHS website offers resources for [individuals](#) and [health care providers](#) interested in learning more about or participating in the program.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, North Carolina has worked to remove access and cost barriers to testing while increasing capacity statewide. In addition to coordinating overall testing capacity and supporting providers, NCDHHS has also directly funded community testing sites and events in targeted communities at higher risk of exposure.

NCDHHS recommends testing for anyone experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#), as well as for any asymptomatic individual who may have been exposed, especially people from historically marginalized communities. Information about upcoming community testing events can be found on the [Community Testing Events page](#) of the NCDHHS COVID-19 website, and testing sites can be located via [Find My Testing Place](#).

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