



**To:** All CareFirst CHPDC Providers  
**Date:** March 24, 2020  
**Subject:** Provider Notice on COVID-19

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CareFirst CHPDC has been closely monitoring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the latest information about COVID-19 and has been engaged in making the necessary plans based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CareFirst CHPDC recommends that providers follow CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and state-specific guidance regarding COVID-19 evaluation, testing, diagnosis, treatment, and reporting.

#### **COVID-19 Testing**

CareFirst CHPDC will cover all medically necessary services required to facilitate testing and treatment of COVID-19 for its eligible enrollees, in accordance with federal and state guidance. No prior authorization is required for COVID-19 testing. Coronavirus testing codes follow:

- **U0001-** CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel.
- **U0002-** Coronavirus (COVID-19) for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019.

#### **CDC Links for more Information:**

Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation (PUI):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Coding encounters related to COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Guidance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf>

#### **If you suspect you or a patient has COVID-19.**

The CDC instructs providers to consult with local or state health departments to determine whether patients meet criteria for a Persons Under Investigation (PUI)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>.

Providers should immediately notify infection control personnel at their facility if they suspect COVID-19 in a patient. Please notify your state or local health department if a patient is classified as a PUI for COVID-19.

Providers should report recognized exposures, regularly monitor themselves for fever and

symptoms of respiratory infection, and not report to work when ill. Providers in low-, medium-, or high-risk exposure categories who develop signs or symptoms compatible with COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to contact their established point of contact (public health authorities or their facility's occupational health program) for medical evaluation prior to returning to work.

**CDC Links for more Information:**

CDC: Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>.

Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>.

**If you need to close your office due to exposure.**

CareFirst CHPDC is committed to helping with ensuring enrollee access to care. In the event of an office closure, please contact your Provider Relations Representative. If you do not know who your assigned PR Rep is or how to contact them, please call CareFirst CHPDC Provider Services at 202-821-1145. This will allow us to update our records while helping enrollees identify alternative options if they have an urgent need.

If you decide to close your office, we encourage you to offer telemedicine visits to your patients with urgent needs. Please follow the link below for guidance on Telemedicine provided by DHCF.

<https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/telemedicine>

For more resources and guidance, please access the CDC COVID-19 homepage:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.