

# MEDICAID POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

**Policy Analyst:** Kayla Lowers

**Phone Number:** 517-284-1144

Initial

Public Comment

Final

## Brief description of policy:

As a result of the federal emergency health declaration for COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is suspending program coverage closures for all Medicaid programs beginning March 16, 2020 and ending when the emergency health declaration is rescinded. Medicaid coverage will only be closed if the individual moves out of state, requests that their benefits close, or they become deceased.

## Reason for policy (problem being addressed):

This policy is being implemented in order to ensure that all Medicaid beneficiaries are able to receive needed medical services during the time of COVID-19 national health emergency.

## Budget implication:

budget neutral

will cost MDHHS \$ Unknown, and is not budgeted in current appropriation

will save MDHHS \$

## Is this policy change mandated per federal requirements?

This policy is not federally mandated, but is allowed under options supplied by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127).

## Does policy have operational implications on other parts of MDHHS?

Yes, this policy will have implications for the Economic Stability Administration (ESA) and how its field staff process cases.

## Does policy have operational implications on other departments?

No.

## Summary of input:

controversial

acceptable to most/all groups

limited public interest/comment

## Supporting Documentation:

State Plan Amendment Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public Notice Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please provide status:	If yes, Submission Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	
Date:                      Approval                      Date:	

<b>DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</b>		
	<b>Project Number:</b> 2026-Eligibility	<b>Date:</b> April 6, 2020

**Comments Due:** May 11, 2020  
**Proposed Effective Date:** Immediately  
**Direct Comments To:** Kayla Lowers  
**Address:** N/A  
**E-Mail Address:** [LowersK@michigan.gov](mailto:LowersK@michigan.gov)  
**Phone:** 517-284-1144 **Fax:**

<b>Policy Subject:</b> COVID-19 Response: Suspending all Medicaid Closures  <b>Affected Programs:</b> Medicaid, MICHild  <b>Distribution:</b> Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) Holders  <b>Summary:</b> As a result of the federal emergency health declaration for COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is suspending program coverage closures for all Medicaid programs beginning March 16, 2020. Medicaid coverage will only be closed if the individual moves out of state, requests that their benefits close, or they become deceased.  <b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this policy is to help address the COVID-19 national health emergency.  <b>Cost Implications:</b> Unknown  <b>Potential Hearings &amp; Appeal Issues:</b> None
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<b>State Plan Amendment Required:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>If yes, date submitted:</b>	<b>Public Notice Required:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Submitted date:</b>
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<b>Tribal Notification:</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> - <b>Date:</b>
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<b>THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY RECEIVER</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Approved</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No Comments</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Disapproved</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>See Comments Below</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>See Comments in Text</b>

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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<b>Signature Printed:</b>
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<b>Bureau/Administration</b> <i>(please print)</i>	<b>Date</b>
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**Bulletin Number:** MSA 20-19

Correction to date within bulletin-April 6, 2020

**Distribution:** Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) Holders

**Issued:** April 6, 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 Response: Suspending all Medicaid Closures

**Effective:** Immediately

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, MIChild

Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State recommendations, social distancing is encouraged to slow the spread of COVID-19 and thus preserve the health system capacity for the duration of this pandemic. As a result of the federal emergency health declaration, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is suspending program coverage closures for all Medicaid programs beginning March 18, 2020 and will be in effect through the month of April 2020 or until the first of the month following the termination of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency Order (2020-04, COVID-19), whichever is later. Medicaid coverage will only be closed if the individual moves out of state, requests that their benefits close, or they become deceased.

This temporary suspension of closures applies to Medicaid, MIChild, Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP), and individuals who have active coverage through a met deductible (i.e., spend down). Individuals who meet their deductible during the declared health emergency period will remain open until the end of the health emergency. Temporary closure restrictions do not apply to the MOMS program as this is not a Medicaid group. While closures will not take place except for the reasons stated above, individuals may (in limited cases) move to other Medicaid groups. These individuals will not see a decrease in their benefit amount and their case will stay open during the health emergency. These temporary policy changes offer flexibility for providers to meet the needs of beneficiaries through alternative means while protecting the health and welfare of both parties.

### **Public Comment**

The public comment portion of the policy promulgation process is being conducted concurrently with the implementation of the change noted in this bulletin. Any interested party wishing to comment on the change may do so by submitting comments to Kayla Lowers, Policy Specialist, via e-mail at:

E-mail: [LowersK@michigan.gov](mailto:LowersK@michigan.gov)

Please include "COVID-19 Response: Suspending all Medicaid Closures" in the subject line.

Comments received will be considered for revisions to the change implemented by this bulletin.

### **Manual Maintenance**

Information is time-limited and will not be incorporated into any policy or procedure manuals.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approved**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Massey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director  
Medical Services Administration