Get Covered Illinois and Medicaid Resources

At this time, we need everyone's help: 1) asking families if they have health coverage; 2) if uninsured, letting them know where to apply for coverage; and 3) encouraging them to seek care as appropriate, including therapies and mental health care, vaccinations and flu shots. Please share and forward the resources provided to teachers, school nurses, social workers and other staff that work with and provide resources to families in your districts.

Open Enrollment for the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace ends December 15.

Get Covered Illinois (GCI) is the official ACA Health Insurance Marketplace for the state of Illinois. Open Enrollment is the time of year for people to enroll in an ACA Health Insurance Marketplace plan or renew/change their existing plan. Special Enrollment periods are also an option for certain qualifying life events. By visiting **www.getcoveredillinois.gov** families can get connected to free assistance with a Certified Application Counselor to see if they qualify for financial help on the Marketplace or Medicaid. During this pandemic, it's more important than ever for people to have better access to health coverage.

Please share the following link about Open Enrollment before December 15, 2020 with families so that more people are aware of these deadlines. https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GetCovered/Resources/Pages/What-to-Know-About-Open-Enrollment.aspx

Families can apply for Medicaid and SNAP anytime at ABE.Illinois.gov

Medicaid covers comprehensive health benefits. Income and citizenship requirements differ for children, pregnant moms and adults – see **Medicaid Fact Sheet**. HFS has used options under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to help get people on Medicaid faster and make sure they stay on Medicaid during this time. Almost everyone on Medicaid enrolls with a managed care plan; families on Medicaid should contact their managed care plan with any questions, for help finding a provider, or help navigating care.

With respect to COVID-19 testing and treatment:
- Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance covers COVID testing and treatment.
- Medicaid has a special COVID-19 Emergency Medical Program for Non-Citizens who are COVID positive or suspected of being COVID positive and who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid except for their immigration status. The initial benefit period is 60 days and it covers testing and treatment.
- NO provider should be billing families for a COVID test or treatment. There are federal and state programs set up to reimburse providers regardless of the families' income or immigration status.
- Uninsured families who have been charged for a test or treatment can call 1-877-805-5312 (option 9) to report that the bill. HFS is asking providers to reimburse anyone charged. HFS is re-issuing a provider notice to this affect; all HFS provider notices can be found here: https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/default.aspx

HFS is happy to participate in any calls or to answer questions about Medicaid coverage; contact me at: Lauren.Polite@Illinois.gov