

COVID-19 AND HEALTH INSURANCE

ACCESSING HEALTHCARE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



What are my options for getting health insurance?

BadgerCare Plus (State of Wisconsin Medicaid)

You can apply online at any time using the ACCESS website at access.wisconsin.gov/access.

HealthCare.gov (Federal Health Insurance Plans)

You can enroll in health insurance outside the yearly Open Enrollment Period if you have a change in your situation like losing health coverage. Other qualifying life events that can make you eligible include moving, becoming a U.S. citizen or releasing from jail or prison.

Find free, local help in Wisconsin.

211 Wisconsin connects you with thousands of programs and services in your area. Dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211 for personal assistance.

Covering Wisconsin provides residents with health insurance outreach and enrollment assistance. Call (608) 261-1455 or (414) 270-4677 for help, or visit coveringwi.org/enroll to make an appointment.

How can I pay for a COVID-19 test or treatment?

BadgerCare Plus or other Medicaid programs cover COVID-19 tests and treatment including doctor visits, lab tests, emergency room visits, hospitalizations and telehealth visits.

HealthCare.gov health insurance plans cover COVID-19 tests and visits to the doctor, urgent care or emergency room. Call your insurance company to find out if your plan covers treatment costs.

If you don't have health insurance, the COVID-19 test will be paid for by the government.

If I need to stay home for an extended period of time, how can I get extra medications or medical supplies that I use every day?

BadgerCare Plus can provide no-cost or low-cost access to extra medications or medical supplies you may need. Contact your pharmacy by phone or online to request more medication or medical supplies.

HealthCare.gov plans may allow you to get extra medicine you need. Contact your pharmacy by phone or online to request more medication or medical supplies. Call the member assistance number found on the back of your insurance card if you have a question about a specific medication.

What if I need to see a doctor?

If you think you may have COVID-19, call your doctor's office before getting medical care. Be sure to get treatment if you have trouble breathing or have any other emergency warning signs.

- Call 911 if you think you are having a medical emergency.
- If you don't have a doctor, you can call a local community health center for assistance. Find one near you at findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov.
- Call a 24-hour nurse hotline.
- Have a doctor's visit from home (telehealth visit).

Will getting a COVID-19 test or treatment hurt my immigration status?

A COVID-19 test or treatment will not affect your immigration status. Most immigrants are not affected by the federal government's new rules on immigration and public benefits, called public charge. Many programs that help with food, housing and healthcare are still safe for immigrants to use. For more information, visit coveringwi.org/immigration.

This document was developed by the Consumer Outreach and Education Workgroup, which is one of four workgroups of the Advisory Council to the Department of Health Services and Office of the Commissioner of Insurance on Health Insurance Enrollment. The following organizations contribute their staff to the workgroup, ABC for Health, Common Ground Health Plan, Covering Wisconsin, Dean Health Plan, Inc, Partnership Community Health Center, Security Health Plan, UnityPoint Health, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association.