

2021 State Insurance Regulatory COVID-19 Updates

*State insurance regulators have been issuing emergency regulations, guidance documents, and press releases to assist regulated entities regarding the provision of insurance-related services during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The recent updates are denoted below, including:

- [Alaska](#) issued a Regulatory Order clarifying that insurers must cover all costs associated with COVID-19 treatments, among other things.
- [Alaska](#) issued a Regulatory Order requiring insurers to permit employers to continue coverage for employees under group policies even if the employee would otherwise become ineligible due to a decrease in hours worked per week, among other things.
- [New York](#) issued an Executive Order and Press Release expanding the categories of medical personnel who can administer COVID-19 vaccinations, which must be covered without costs (e.g., copays, coinsurance, and deductibles).
- [Texas](#) issued a Bulletin extending the data collection period for certain insurance carriers regarding COVID-19-related workers' compensation claims and payments through June 2021.

* **This tracker focusses on regulatory actions from 2021. You can access the 2020 insurance regulatory tracker [here](#).**

* In addition, we are tracking state efforts to enhance eligibility for workers' compensation for certain frontline employees. The requirements vary significantly from state to state. The states that have acted thus far include Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Washington.

* Many of the states have issued bulletins that contain the following information:

- **Information Access.** Asks insurers to inform insureds of available benefits, quickly respond to insured inquiries, and consider revisions needed to streamline response and benefits for insureds.
- **Testing.** Requests/requires insurers to waive cost-sharing for (1) COVID-19 testing and (2) in-network provider office visits, urgent care center visits, and emergency room visits.
- **Telehealth Delivery of Services.** Reminds insurers to ensure their telehealth programs are robust and will be able to meet increased demand.
- **Network Adequacy and Access to Out-of-Network Services.** Requests insurers to verify their provider networks are adequate to handle a potential increase in the need for health care services and requests insurers that do not have a provider in their networks with the appropriate training/experience to meet the health care needs of insureds make exceptions to provide access to an out-of-network provider at the in-network cost-sharing level.
- **Immunizations.** In the event an immunization becomes available, requests that insurers immediately cover the immunization at no-cost sharing.
- **Access to Prescription Drugs.** Asks insurers to make expedited formulary exceptions in certain circumstances and requests that insurers allow insureds to fill and refill prescription medications for up to a 90-day supply/until the prescription expires.

Not every state has followed this model and some states deviate in important respects (e.g., by specifically addressing surprise billing, ambulance services, etc.). The below survey details the available state resources, the date on which the resources were issued, and a brief summary offering a general overview of the guidance offered. In particular, it focuses on cost-sharing waivers, telehealth services, treatment of out-of-network providers offering in-network services, etc.

* We envision this as an evergreen document that we will aim to update **weekly**. If you operate in a state and notice that we have not included the most up-to-date guidance, please let us know.

State	State Resources	Date Issued	Summary
<i>Alaska</i>	R21-03	01/15/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarifies that insurers must cover all costs (e.g., copays, coinsurance, and deductibles) associated with COVID-19 vaccine administration and treatments.</i>
	R21-02	01/15/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Extends timeframes for rate, form, and advertisement filings.</i> • <i>Requires that insurers permit employers to continue coverage for employees under group policies even if the employee would otherwise become ineligible due to a decrease in hours worked per week.</i>
	R21-01	01/15/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarifies that insurers must waive any cost-sharing for respiratory syncytial virus, influenza, and COVID-19 testing.</i> • <i>Provides updated guidance regarding expanded coverage of telehealth services, among other things.</i>
California	Bulletin 2020-13	12/31/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a moratorium on the cancellation and non-renewal of certain residential property insurance policies due to wildfire risk located in certain ZIP codes, among other things.
D.C.	Notice Press Release	01/04/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifies insurers that all Orders and Bulletins regarding relief to policyholders are to remain in place through March 31, 2021 (e.g., the end of the public health emergency).
Indiana	Bulletin 256	12/31/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks insurers to extend prior authorization timeframes for open and approved delayed scheduled surgeries until June 29, 2021. • Notes that this extension only applies to prior authorizations that were approved before December 16, 2020.

State	State Resources	Date Issued	Summary
Massachusetts	Bulletin 2020-32	12/29/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies that insurers must cover all costs (e.g., copays, coinsurance, and deductibles) associated with COVID-19 vaccine administration. • Establishes additional requirements for insurers to cover COVID-19 vaccines.
	Bulletin 2020-30	12/29/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminds insurers of a previous bulletin regarding premium grace periods, among other things.
Mississippi	Bulletin 2021-01	01/07/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends the waiver of requirements for insurers to conduct on-site reviews.
New Jersey	Bulletin No. 21-01	01/07/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies that insurers must cover all costs (e.g., copays, coinsurance, and deductibles) associated with COVID-19 vaccine administration. • Establishes additional requirements for insurers to cover COVID-19 vaccines.
<i>New York</i>	Executive Order 202.82 Press Release	<i>01/15/2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarifies the expansion of categories of medical personnel who can administer COVID-19 vaccinations, which must be covered without costs (e.g., copays, coinsurance, and deductibles).</i>
<i>Texas</i>	B-0003-21	<i>01/14/2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Extends a previously established data collection period requiring certain insurance carriers to provide summary data for COVID-19-related workers' compensation claims and payments through June 2021.</i>
Washington	Extended Emergency Order 20-02 Press Release	01/08/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends a previous Emergency Order regarding coverage of telehealth services to February 7, 2021.
	Press Release	12/30/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies that insurers must cover all costs (e.g., copays, coinsurance, and deductibles) associated with COVID-19 vaccine administration.