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BULLETIN

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY & DBHDD SERVICE ALLOWANCES DUE TO COVID-19

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DBHDD continues to receive inquiries concerning when the COVID-19 related allowances for services will end. To ensure that the provider network is kept informed with the most up to date information concerning this matter we offer this additional clarification.

On April 21, 2021, the United States Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) renewed its determination that the national Public Health Emergency (PHE) continues to exist and indicated that it will likely remain in effect through calendar year 2021. The changes made in the DBHDD and Medicaid programs due to COVID-19 are expected to remain in effect through the duration of the national PHE.

Please be assured that we are closely monitoring state and national guidance. DBHDD will notify providers, as timely as possible, of any changes to allowances related to COVID or to the PHE declaration. Providers should reference the policies linked below to find the latest guidance related to COVID-related modifications.

### **Behavioral Health Providers**

The discontinuation of the Georgia Public Health Emergency does not affect the current telehealth guidance that Behavioral Health Providers are operating under due to COVID-19. Though some allowances may have an end date, we do not have a planned end date at this time. DBHDD fully appreciates the benefit that these allowances provide in this current emergency.

[Click here](#) to read a memorandum regarding the PHE and service allowances from Monica Johnson, Director, Division of Behavioral Health and Wendy Tiegreen, Director, Office of Medicaid Coordination & Health System Innovation.

For the temporary modifications made to policies that are pertinent to community behavioral health services please refer to DBHDD policy [COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Behavioral Health Services Policy Modification-7/1/2021](#).

### **Intellectual and Developmental Disability Providers**

The discontinuation of the Georgia Public Health Emergency does not affect the changes outlined in the Appendix K for the NOW and COMP waivers. The associated allowances were effective March 1, 2021, through up to 6 months after the end of the federal PHE. DBHDD and DCH reserve the right, with respect to providers and participants and all third-party beneficiaries, to terminate the Appendix K sooner than 6 months after the end of the federal public health emergency.

For the temporary modifications made to policies that are pertinent to community developmental disability services please refer to DBHDD policy [COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications-7/1/2021](#).

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do during this challenging time, and for your continued commitment to the citizens of Georgia.

## Office of Provider Relations

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