

MEDICAID COVID-19 MESSAGES

The spread of COVID-19 throughout the country has highlighted the need for accessible and responsive health care. Idaho's Medicaid system provides crucial care and coverage for thousands of Idahoans, and a pandemic highlights just how important that system is. Below are key messages related to Medicaid funding and the current Corona Virus outbreak:

Medicaid is a Crucial Health Program that is Vital in Controlling Public Emergencies

- At a time when visiting the doctor, filling out important prescriptions, and being able to be tested for disease is incredibly important, the reality is that those precautions are only possible for those who have access to health care.
- Medicaid provides access to care for thousands of Idahoans, making it possible for them to visit a clinic, providing them with health insurance and keeping our community safe.
- Without Medicaid emergency management in Idaho would be nearly impossible. Medicaid has historically been used to help provide relief during national emergencies, provides a flexible funding stream that can be utilized for disease management activities like testing and quarantining, and provides our state government with the needed federal dollars to effectively respond to a crisis.

Expanding Medicaid Likely Made Covid-19 Easier to Control in Idaho

- Medicaid expansion has provided health coverage to over 67,000 Idahoans. Now 67,000 Idahoans have the ability to see a doctor, receive a Corona Virus test without financial hardship, and get the care they need if they are sick, without having to go to the emergency room. These Idahoans can now access preventative care instead and help slow the spread of Covid-19.
- Medicaid expansion is covering the kinds of workers who would be uninsured otherwise. Food service workers, hospitality workers, people that typically don't get insurance through their job and many people who we interact with on a daily basis. Without Medicaid expansion these Idahoans would have no ability to see a doctor, and would likely keep working when sick and spread the disease. Expansion is a crucial tool to slow the spread.

Fully Funding Medicaid Expansion Has Never Been More Vital

- Medicaid expansion is a policy that was tailor made for times of crisis like this. It allows for Idahoans to still have the crucial supports they need to stay healthy, and bolsters our health care system in times of extreme need.
- As economic impacts from the virus take their toll, Medicaid will make the difference for thousands of Idahoans who suddenly find themselves on hard times. As they recover and begin to make ends meet, expansion will provide them with the solid ground they need to thrive.
- Idaho needs a flexible and robust response to this national health emergency. Fully funding Medicaid expansion gives Idahoans the health protections needed to manage disease spread, and gives the states the tools to keep Idahoans healthy. Fully funding the program has never been more vital than in the middle of an international pandemic crisis.

