

Coronavirus/COVID-19: Getting Health Insurance and Paying for Care

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In the current Coronavirus or COVID-19 crisis, this sheet gives Wisconsin residents basic information on how to get health insurance and how to pay for testing and treatment.

What are my options for getting health insurance right now?

BadgerCare Plus (State of Wisconsin Medicaid). You can sign up at any time. You can apply online using the ACCESS website: <https://access.wisconsin.gov/access>

Healthcare.gov health insurance plan. If you have lost your job or your health insurance, you can sign up now. Other life events will also let you sign up now including moving, changes to your household size, becoming a citizen, and release from jail or prison.

Find help in Wisconsin to sign up and pay for health insurance. Your options are:

- Call the 2-1-1 Helpline
- Call Covering Wisconsin at 608-261-1455 or 414-270-4677
- Text your zip code to 898211
- Go to www.coveringwi.org/enroll to make a phone appointment

Will I have to pay for a coronavirus test or treatment?

BadgerCare Plus or other Medicaid program, such as Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD).

COVID-19 tests and treatment are covered. This includes doctor visits, lab tests, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and telehealth visits.

Healthcare.gov health insurance plan. The COVID-19 test is covered. This includes the visit to the doctor, urgent care or emergency room. For treatment, each plan has their own rules about costs. Call your insurance company to find out if they will pay for treatment costs.

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

COVID-19 shots or vaccine, there is not a vaccine for COVID-19 right now. When one is available, it will be free for those with BadgerCare Plus.

What if I need to see a doctor?

- If you are having an emergency, call 911 or go to the emergency room

- Call your doctor's office. You can call 24 hours a day.
- Call a 24-hour nurse hotline
- Have a doctor's visit from home. This is called telehealth.

If I need to stay home for a long time, how do I get extra medications or medical supplies for prescriptions I use every day?

BadgerCare Plus or other Medicaid program, such as Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD).

Contact your pharmacy by phone, online or in person to request more medication or medical supplies. You are allowed to get the extra medicine and medical supplies you need.

Healthcare.gov health insurance plan. Contact your pharmacy by phone, online or in person to request more medication or medical supplies. Most health insurance plans will allow you to get extra medicine you need. Call the member assistance phone line found on the back of your insurance card if you have a question about a specific medication.

Will getting a coronavirus test or treatment hurt my immigration status?

- A Coronavirus/COVID-19 test or treatment **won't** affect your immigration status. You should seek the care you need during this difficult time.
- Most immigrants are not affected by the federal government's new rules on immigration and public benefits, called public charge. Many health and food programs are still safe to use. For information go to <https://www.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.