

PBD COVID-19 Local Outbreak Preparation

With the ongoing news regarding the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19), this email provides information regarding coverage considerations and Pharmacy Benefit Dimension's ("PBD") preparedness in the event of an outbreak near our office headquarters. The following information will be sent to NY44 directly, and I will copy you on that outreach.

In response to COVID-19, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a directive on March 3 requiring fully insured health plans in the state to waive any cost-sharing for the laboratory test related to COVID-19. In addition, Gov. Cuomo also is requiring fully insured health plans to scale up their provision, and payment for, telehealth services to assist patients.

Regarding the expansion of access to prescription drugs, this information was explained in Gov. Cuomo's directive: *With reports of prescription drug shortages due to supply chain issues, DFS is directing insurers to provide insurance coverage for off-formulary prescription drugs if there is not a formulary drug available to treat the insured, through a formulary exceptions process as required by law.*

As you know, most self-funded plans are not regulated by the NYS Department of Insurance. **If you have determined you are required, or would like to opt in, to follow this prescription access directive, please contact me directly.**

PBD Preparedness

It is important to keep in mind that for most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to the virus at this time, the immediate health risk is considered low, even in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported. In fact, the common flu remains a greater concern at this point, which is why common preventive measures and good hygiene practices are important.

With regard to PBD's readiness for any outbreak of COVID-19 around our office headquarters, we are working with our parent company, Independent Health, on preparedness efforts. They have already engaged an Incident Response Plan and Incident Management Team and are closely monitoring this issue. This includes our Pandemic Response Plan, communication needs, potential Human Resources considerations, and identification of other business risks and concerns, and potential responses. The Pandemic Response Plan outlines actions for differing levels of severity and includes the critical considerations for key areas of the business.

Staying Updated

Due to the continued evolving status of COVID-19, PBD is directing customer service inquiries to the comprehensive information found on the federal [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) website, as well and any medical questions to their healthcare providers.

We will provide updates when it is necessary or as the situation changes. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or if there is any additional information you need at this time.

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