

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:

October 23, 2020

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEGINS BILLING INSURANCE COMPANIES FOR COVID-19 TESTING SERVICES; PATIENTS WILL NOT BE CHARGED REGARDLESS OF INSURANCE COVERAGE

Federal CARES Act mandates insurance companies cover COVID-19 testing services; Health Department contacting patients for insurance information, if any, to receive reimbursement from insurers

Largo, MD – Individuals who were tested for COVID-19 at any of the testing locations operated or supplied by the Prince George's County Health Department will soon be contacted by the department to obtain their health insurance information, if any. The purpose is to submit the cost of the individual's COVID-19 testing services to their insurance plan for reimbursement to the County.

Whether individuals have insurance or not, there will be no out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 testing at a department testing site. Insurance carriers cannot hold patients responsible for any deductible or co-pay. Whether patients have insurance or not, department employees will not be asking for any payment information from them.

“We have worked aggressively to provide more than 50,000 diagnostic COVID-19 tests to the public at numerous sites countywide free of charge. Our focus has been getting as many individuals tested as possible, directing those who tested positive to care, and ensuring they were isolating from others,” said **Prince George’s County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter**. “COVID-19 will be with us for the long term and the Health Department must preserve its ability to provide this vital public health tool at no cost to residents.”

In April, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) ensured residents could get tested for COVID-19 and not be responsible for any out-of-pocket costs. The CARES Act also designated that insurance plans must reimburse for COVID-19 testing performed by both in-network and out-of-network providers without any cost to those covered by the insurance plan.

COVID-19 testing at County Health Department sites remains free regardless of insurance coverage. Appointments, doctor’s notes, and health insurance are not needed to get tested. If individuals have health insurance, they must present their insurance card at the testing site.

Individuals must also present identification. There will be no questions about immigration status at any of the Health Department’s testing sites. For more information about COVID-19 testing, please visit health.mypgc.us/COVIDtesting.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the Prince George’s County Billing Department at (301)883-3328, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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