

Protecting Patients During COVID-19



Now, more than ever, patients' needs must be protected; access to care is critical during a global health crisis. March of Dimes urges Congress to take every step possible to guarantee all Americans can access diagnostic testing and appropriate treatment without fear of unaffordable out-of-pocket costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Protecting Access to Care

During an outbreak, it is imperative sick individuals do not avoid testing and treatment due to financial concerns.

By ensuring uninsured individuals, and those enrolled in public and private health insurance, can access the necessary care without surprise bills or financially crippling out of pocket costs.

Congressional action to eliminate cost-sharing for testing for Medicaid beneficiaries and increasing funding to states during this uncertain time was an important step.

March of Dimes urges Congress to take several actions to ensure Americans have insurance coverage and access to care during the crisis including the following steps:

- Eliminate out-of-pocket costs for all medical care related to patients;
- Enact additional emergency Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) of 5.8% to states to maintain high-quality, comprehensive coverages and care during the pandemic; and
- Incentivize states to expand Medicaid by increasing the federal share of the cost.

March of Dimes also urges Congress to suspend the upcoming October 1 reduction of the enhanced Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) during the emergency and maintain current status.



Removing Implicit Bias

Equitable health access and care are vital to improving maternal health outcomes.

As Congress considers how to address the long-term health implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, it must also consider how the pandemic affects existing inequities.

March of Dimes urges Congress enacts the bipartisan Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act (H.R. 4995) to ensure training programs address and prevent implicit bias and racism in the provision of health care services.

The provision also authorizes the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Program to facilitate the adoption of evidence-based maternal safety best practices; support perinatal quality collaboratives tasked with translating recommendations from maternal mortality review committees into policy and practice changes; and improve access to obstetric care in rural areas.