

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: JULY 6, 2022**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROPOSES TO SUBMIT
A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADD COVERAGE AND PROVIDE COST
SHARING ASSURANCES FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF
COVID-19, COVID-19 TESTS, COUNSELING-ONLY VISITS FOR COVID-19
VACCINES, AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE PHARMACIES
ADMINISTERING COVID-19 TESTS AS A COVERED BENEFIT**

This notice provides information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) regarding State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0004, which DHCS submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 14, 2022. DHCS seeks federal approval to provide coverage for COVID-19 tests, counseling-only visits for COVID-19 vaccines for children and adults, and reimbursement for eligible pharmacies administering COVID-19 tests. The proposed effective date for SPA 22-0004 is March 11, 2021. In addition, SPA 22-0004 seeks to authorize coverage for the duration of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) period, effective one day after the end of the public health emergency, and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the public health emergency.

In addition, DHCS provides assurance that coverage for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19, including vaccines, vaccine counseling, and testing, is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing through the end of the ARP period.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

A copy of the proposed SPA 22-0004 is available at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2022.aspx>

If you would like to view the SPA, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 22-0004 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 22-0004 in the subject line or message.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Benefits Division
Attn: Jim Elliott
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov . Please indicate SPA 22-0004 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 22-0004 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.