

Updated October 21, 2020

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

This summary of Blue Shield of California's COVID-19 response connects brokers, employers, and members to resources for understanding coverage and options. For detailed information, please refer to our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Key focus areas:

- Treatment — We will continue waive out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19-related treatment for members through December 31, 2020. Providers must bill using proper codes for COVID-19.
- Testing — COVID-19 testing and screening out-of-pocket costs are waived, per state and federal guidelines. To understand the types of testing covered by Blue Shield, please reference our [COVID-19 FAQs](#), which get updated regularly to reflect changes in government policy as well as business decisions by Blue Shield.
- Telemedicine — Member cost-sharing for Teladoc® services, regardless of if they are related to COVID-19 or not, is waived through December 31, 2020 for all fully insured members. The cost-share waiver includes both medical visits and behavioral health services. ASO groups interested in offering this coverage to members can reach out to their account representative.
- Get covered — Blue Shield has provided small groups with a special enrollment period (SEP) through November 30, 2020 with December 1, 2020 as the latest effective date. for individuals who previously waived coverage, to enroll without a standard qualifying life event. Large groups (101+) with special circumstances should contact their Blue Shield representative to discuss changes in benefits strategy.
- Stay covered (groups) — Blue Shield has provided premium relief for small business groups needing to defer payments. Small business customers also have a one-time by-down option through September 30, 2020 to allow for selection of leaner plan options. Large group employers should contact their Blue Shield representative with questions regarding billing or plan offerings. Both small and large group employers can change to a Trio HMO or Tandem PPO plan through the end of 2020, which can lower monthly premiums.
- Stay covered (members) — There are many choices for members who lose coverage during these challenging times, and we are directing them to this [resource page](#) that outlines Blue Shield options, which include Individual and Family Plans, Medi-Cal, Medicare, as well as Cal-COBRA, and COBRA (with special COVID extensions) for those losing employer-sponsored health plans.

Learn more about the above topics, and stay connected with Blue Shield:

- Our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) web page for brokers and employers](#) is updated regularly and is rich with current content on all of the above topics.
- Our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) covers details on the above topics, and more.
- [Member information on COVID-19](#)
- [Provider information on COVID-19](#)
- BlueShield of California [News Center](#)