

Provider Notice

This is being sent on behalf of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).

Behavioral Health Providers & Stakeholders,

On May 26, 2020 Governor Northam signed an *amended Executive Order Fifty-One*, extending Virginia's state of emergency declaration that was previously set to expire on June 10th, 2020. The text of amended Executive Order Fifty-One is available [here](#). The amendment to Executive Order Fifty-One allows the **DMAS provider flexibilities and directives issued to remain effective until the Governor further amends or rescinds the state of emergency through executive order.**

As noted in previous communications, DMAS is collaborating with multiple state agencies and provider associations in preparation for Virginia's phased re-opening process. These collaborative efforts seek to align recommendations regarding best practices for the implementation of this process for behavioral health services, keeping the safety of the members we serve and the providers that partner with us in that service as a priority. We encourage all providers to continue practicing appropriate physical distancing and the use of PPE as Virginia starts to re-open.

While **further formal communication is forthcoming**, DMAS recognizes that providers are vigilant regarding potential changes to the flexibilities they are operating under at this time and that rapid communication regarding new information is important to minimize system disruptions during this challenging time. This communication underscores that the provider flexibilities, allowances, directives, and limitations related to the delivery of behavioral health services and Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) as stated in the DMAS provider flexibilities memos, extend through the duration of the declared state of emergency in Virginia, until otherwise formally notified. As also previously communicated, some of the flexibilities are currently available through a cross-section of federal and state authorities and we are working internally to keep an eye on these moving targets and prepare communication for stakeholders to help them ready for any changes. To be clear, **none of the current flexibilities are now set to expire on June 10th, 2020; formal dates of expiration or permanent adoption of any flexibilities are not determined at this date.**

DMAS providers, managed care organizations (MCOs), and the Behavioral Health Services Administrator (BHSA) shall continue to operate under the published guidance, memos, and directives issued by DMAS until notified otherwise. DMAS is striving to be strategic, responsive, and responsible as we move forward with issuing guidance to assist with directing providers on how and when to resume activities and services.

For copies of all previously posted Behavioral Health and ARTS COVID-19 guidance, directives, recordings, webinars, and FAQs, remaining effective until the state of emergency ends or otherwise notified, please visit: <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/#/emergencywaiver>. Click [here](#) for a Behavioral Health PPE fact sheet.