

CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES

- [VDH COVID-19 Page](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Page](#)
- [VDH Hotline: 877-ASK-VDH3](#)

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APRIL 2020 EDITION

AN UPDATE ON COVID-19 FROM VIRGINIA MEDICAID

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is working to take immediate actions to help fight COVID-19. DMAS is committed to increasing access to health care for the over 1.5 million Virginia Medicaid members and the thousands of low-income residents expected to seek coverage. Medicaid members are DMAS' highest priority, and they have adopted policies to make sure that no one loses coverage during this critical time.

DMAS is taking steps, effective immediately, to remove barriers to care for its members and other eligible Virginians:

- For the length of the COVID-19 emergency, renewals and redeterminations are extended. Any member who files an appeal during the emergency will automatically have coverage extended while waiting for the appeal.
- Eliminating co-pays for all Medicaid and FAMIS covered services, including COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- Allowing Medicaid members to obtain a 90-day supply of many routine prescriptions.
- Waiving pre-approval requirements for many critical medical services, and enacting automatic extensions for approvals that are already in place.



Virginians who need health coverage can visit coverva.org to find out if they may be eligible for Medicaid. They can apply for health coverage at any time by going online to commonhelp.virginia.gov.

For more information and updates, please visit the new [Virginia Medicaid COVID-19 webpage](#) and [Check out the FAQs](#) (including information about coverage lapses, behavioral health, telehealth, appeals, and more) for answers to more of your questions.

For more information about COVID-19, including details about symptoms and what to do if you are sick, visit the [VDH's website](#).

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CDC GUIDANCE ON STD TREATMENT OPTIONS DURING COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of STD Prevention released [guidance for STD prevention programs](#). This includes STD clinics, and provides effective STD care and prevention guidance when facility-based services and in-person patient-clinician contact is limited. The guidance encourages STD programs to consider limiting and prioritizing patients, conducting phone or telemedicine-based triage, and establishing relationships with other clinics and/or pharmacies.

NAVIGATION

- [An Update on COVID-19 from Virginia Medicaid](#)
- [CDC Guidance on STD Treatment Options During COVID-19](#)
- [Female/Insertive Condoms Are in Stock - Order Now!](#)
- [PrEP Patient Survey](#)
- [Personnel](#)

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FEMALE/INSERTIVE CONDOMS ARE IN STOCK – ORDER NOW!

Female condoms, FC2, or insertive condoms, are back in stock! You may order in units of 100, or by the case (1,000). Go ahead and place your orders.

If you are not already signed up for the free VDH Condom Distribution, please contact **Beth Marschak** at elizabeth.marschak@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8008. Both health districts and community partners are eligible, and may order up to 100 cases a year (100,000 condoms).

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PREP PATIENT SURVEY

In 2019, DDP conducted a survey of patients on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV to understand what influenced their initiation of PrEP, medication adherence and participation in the VDH PrEP program. The findings and recommendations can help inform planning activities to help maximize the impact of the program. The report is now available on the DDP Resources website at this link: <https://bit.ly/3bkB13W>.

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PERSONNEL

Welcome

DDP welcomes Ms. **Sravani Yakkanti** as the new HIV Epidemiology Consultant working within the HIV Surveillance Unit. Sravani previously worked with the Fairfax County Health Department on Zika outbreak and communicable disease surveillance, investigation, analysis and reporting. She has a Bachelors in Medicine and Surgery, is currently enrolled at George Mason University and plans to complete her Masters of Public Health degree this summer. She can be reached by phone at (804) 864-7646 or by email at sravani.yakkanti@vdh.virginia.gov.

Congratulations



DDP welcomes **Sarah Lannon** as the Hotline Manager for the Virginia Disease Prevention Hotline. Sarah has a Bachelor's of Science degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She was a Peace Corps volunteer where she partnered with local hospitals, health centers, and community-based organizations to plan and implement HIV/AIDS prevention projects in Mozambique. Sarah has been a hotline counselor for the past year and assumed some hotline managerial responsibilities upon the retirement of the previous hotline manager, Agapito Ruiz-Millan. Sarah can be reached at (804) 864-8009, or sarah.lannon@vdh.virginia.gov.

Julie Webster is welcomed to the HIV and Hepatitis Prevention Unit as the new Clinical HIV Testing Coordinator. Julie first joined DDP in December 2018 as an HIV Services Coordinator with the HIV Care Services Unit. She came to Virginia from California, and has over 17 years of experience with grants management, contract monitoring, and program evaluation. Julie loves spending time with family, music, live theater, the ocean, and exploring the Hawaiian Islands. Julie can be reached at julie.webster@vdh.virginia.gov, or (804) 864-7219.

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