**COVID-19 Health Emergency- CHIP Start Date and Premiums**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Staff Impacted: Eligibility, Business Office**

**The Why:**

Changes temporarily made to maintain coverage during the COVID-19 health emergency.

**The Facts:**

In response to the COVID-19 health emergency, CHIP Premiums will be suspended and CHIP will continue to issue if past due premiums haven’t been paid. CHIP start date may be delayed for those still receiving Medicaid.

**Premiums:**

- Premiums for CHIP households will be suspended during the emergency period.
  - Programming has been put in place to stop charging premiums.
  - Any CHIP cases that were closed for nonpayment of premiums will be reopened by the system; workers do not need to reopen the program.
- Any premiums and late fees collected since March 1, 2020 will be refunded to the customer automatically.
  - No request from the customer is necessary.
- CHIP cases will temporarily suspend premiums beginning with March. Some quarters will be prorated, when the quarter contains months prior to March.

**CHIP Start Date:**

- For those on Medicaid and have benefits extended due to the non-closure directive, CHIP will continue to be determined but will not be processed for approval until the national emergency is over.
  - Cases should still be transferred to the CHIP hierarchy as normal, but the CHIP program will not begin until after the emergency period. If the CHIP program remains within the same hierarchy, hold off approving CHIP until the emergency period is over.
- New applicants, who were not on Medicaid during the COVID-19 health emergency, will be determined for CHIP as normal, except premiums will be suspended until the emergency period is over.

**Bottom Line:**

CHIP premiums will be suspended during the COVID-19 health emergency. Beginning with March, CHIP programs closed for nonpayment will be reopened and any payments for March will be refunded. When moving kids from Medicaid to CHIP, do not create and approve CHIP until COVID-19 health emergency ends. New applicants that were not on Medicaid will be processed like normal, except premiums will be suspended.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Supporting Documents:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Program Team Contact:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Alexis Rodriguez</td>
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