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**Three important Medi-Cal programs to help with  
COVID-19 testing and *treatment* (including in-patient hospitalization),  
*regardless* of immigration status**

**Takeaways:**

- ✓ Medi-Cal now covers everyone for testing and all medical necessary treatment of COVID-19.
- ✓ There is **no income limit or status requirement** for COVID-related services.
- ✓ This includes in-patient hospitalization.
- ✓ The federal government says the public charge rule does not count for medical services related to COVID-19: <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/public-charge>

- 1) Emergency (Restricted) Medi-Cal:** Adults 26 or over with income at or below 138% of poverty (see chart below) can qualify for Emergency Medi-Cal. Immigration status is not a barrier.

**What is covered?** Emergency, or Restricted, Medi-Cal includes testing as well as **treatment** for COVID-19. Treatment includes in-patient hospitalization related to COVID-19.

**How can you enroll?:**

- Online at many local county websites or statewide from <https://coveredca.com/>
- By going to or telephoning the county Medi-Cal office
- Many clinics and hospitals also help people enroll in Emergency Medi-Cal.

**When does the coverage start?** The first of the month in which the application is submitted.

**How long does the coverage last?** At least one year, unless something that affects eligibility happens sooner.

**Does it provide “retroactive” coverage, to pay bills for medical services already received?** Yes, up to three months back, if the person was eligible in the month(s) in question.

- 2) COVID-19 Uninsured Group (used to be COVID PE):** This is for people without insurance who don't qualify for any other Medi-Cal program without a share of cost. It also covers people with insurance that either doesn't cover a COVID-related service the person needs or requires a copayment or deductible for it. There is no income limit or immigration status requirement for this program. Only COVID-related services are covered. See [COVID-19 Uninsured Group Program FAQ's](#).

**What is covered?** Testing as well as treatment of COVID-19, including in-patient hospitalization related to COVID-19. The program uses Aid Code V 2.

**How can you enroll?** You enroll at a hospital, clinic, or other provider's office that participates in the program.

**When does the coverage start?** Only from the day the application is submitted, not the first of the month.

**How long does the coverage last?** 12 months. Unless the COVID public health emergency is declared to be over before that.

**Does it provide “retroactive” coverage, to pay bills for COVID-related medical services already received?** Yes, but you have to ask for coverage separately for COVID-related services you received before the date of the application, back to April 8, 2020.

**3) Temporary “Hospital” Presumptive Eligibility (PE):** This program is for uninsured people. The income limit and the scope of the coverage depends on several things, listed in the chart below. There is no immigration status requirement.

**What is covered?** Hospital PE provides **FULL SCOPE** Medi-Cal, including dental and mental health, for children (to 266%) and for adults 19 or over (to 138%). For pregnant women with income to 213%, however, the coverage is PREGNANCY-RELATED, but this is supposed to include all care that is medically necessary, plus dental and mental health.

**How can you enroll?** You enroll at a hospital that participates in the program. You can also enroll at a clinic that is part of a participating hospital’s system.

**When does the coverage start?** Only from the day the application is submitted, not the first of the month.

**How long does the coverage last?** During the month you apply and the month after. You can get it extended by applying for Medi-Cal before the end of the PE period. In that case, the PE coverage continues without a break until there’s a decision on your Medi-Cal application.

**Does the Hospital PE program provide “retroactive” coverage, to pay bills for medical services already received?** No. But you can ask for retroactive Medi-Cal in your follow up application. But if your eligibility is under the COVID-19 Uninsured group, you need to ask separately for coverage back to April 8.

**What are the income limits for the Hospital PE program?** It depends on the group:

Children (under 19)	At or below 266% of poverty	Full Scope Medi-Cal, <i>regardless of status</i>
Pregnant Adults (19 or over)	At or below 138%	Full Scope, depending on status
Pregnant Adults (19 or over)	213%	Pregnancy-Related Medi-Cal
Young Adults (19 up to 26)	At or below 138%	Full Scope Medi-Cal, <i>regardless of status</i>
Other Adults (26 or over)	At or below 138%	Full Scope or Emergency, depending on status
<b>Ineligible for any of the above</b>	<b>No income limit</b>	<b>COVID-19 testing and treatment, regardless of status</b>