



To: All IEHP IPAs and Providers
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: January 5, 2021
Subject: **Requirements from Providers for Negative COVID-19 Testing Prior to Face-to-Face Medical Visit**

While decisions about COVID risk and business operations are made at the individual Provider level, **there is currently no broad recommendation to require all patients to provide a negative COVID test result prior to a standard face-to-face medical visit.** Due to the surge in COVID cases, access to COVID testing can be limited in certain areas so requiring such testing before standard visits can present challenges for IEHP Members.

Additionally, a negative test result may not be reassuring or accurate depending on the stage of an individual's infection (false negative). Targeted COVID testing may be appropriate in certain circumstances and is often recommended prior to hospital admissions, surgeries, and certain medical procedures.

Guidance from [The Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#) for Providers to minimize their COVID risk can be found at:

Healthcare Facilities: Managing Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-hcf.html>

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at:

www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence **or**
www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.