STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-85

(Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Telehealth and Immunizations for State Group Insurance)

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can be transmitted among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, the CDC also recommends consulting your healthcare provider if individuals or members of your household are at high risk for COVID-19 complications, show symptoms of COVID-19, or have otherwise been exposed to the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that everyone over the age of six months receive the influenza (flu) vaccine; and

WHEREAS, the flu can lead to more serious respiratory diseases that can result in hospitalization or death and individuals with certain health conditions are at a higher risk of flu complications, including many of the same high-risk indicators for COVID-19 complications; and

WHEREAS, State Employees across Florida are working tirelessly to support the COVID-19 response effort by providing mission critical support to protect all Floridians; and

WHEREAS, the State Group Insurance Program (SGI) provides coverage to State Employees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Current SGI coverage includes preventive and sick visits through in-person physician office visits, therefore limiting patient access to care; and

WHEREAS, the SGI also provides coverage for immunizations administered by a participating provider, including the flu, which are included on the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices recommendations list based on a member's age and condition; and

WHEREAS, all SGI plan providers have in-network or contracted, Florida-licensed telehealth providers ready to provide health care services effective immediately which would allow state employees to remain in their homes, if sick, and avoid exposure to other sick individuals; or, if not sick, to attend physician appointments without fear of exposure to others; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I am responsible for protecting our state and the health and safety of its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Telehealth

A. I suspend the relevant portions of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, and direct the Secretary of the Department of Management Services to amend the state employee health benefits plan documents effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions, to include telehealth services at no additional cost to employees.

B. I suspend the relevant portions of section 110.12315, Florida Statutes, and direct the Secretary of the Department of Management Services to amend the state employee pharmacy benefits plan documents effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions, to include telehealth services, as appropriate, to employees participating in the SGI plan.

C. I hereby direct the Department of Management Services, Division of State Group Insurance, to ensure that all state employees have access to telehealth services through the state's contracted HMO plans and PPO organization plan without cost sharing effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions.

Section 2. Immunizations

A. I suspend the relevant portions of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, and direct the Secretary of the Department of Management Services to amend the state employee health plan benefits plan documents effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52,

including any extensions, to provide employees participating in the State Employees' Group Insurance Program the option to receive immunizations covered by the employee's plan in either a participating physician's office pursuant to the participant's current PPO Plan Group Health Insurance Plan Booklet or a participant's current HMO contract, or a participating pharmacy in the State Employees' pharmacy benefit manager's network.

B. I hereby direct the Department of Management Services, Division of State Group Insurance, to ensure that all cost sharing that would have been applicable to state employees seeking immunization services under this Executive Order for the influenza vaccination be waived effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall expire upon the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 26th day of March, 2020.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

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