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ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROHIBITING BILLING UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS FOR COVID-19 TESTING

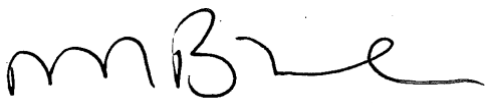
On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. The Public Health Council has approved and authorized me to take such actions, incur such liabilities, and establish such rules, requirements, and procedures which are necessary to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, consistent with the Governor's declaration.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority granted by G.L., c. 17, §2A and with the approval of the Governor and the Public Health Council, and in order to assure the maintenance of public health during the continuing public health emergency, I issue the following Order:

Health care facilities, providers or any entity which administers testing for COVID-19 to an uninsured individual may submit a claim for reimbursement to the COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing and Treatment of the Uninsured Program administered by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration or may provide testing at no cost to the individual. Such facilities, providers or entities shall not in any circumstance bill an uninsured individual for a COVID-19 test, nor shall any fee or costs associated with the test be assessed to an uninsured individual.

Health care facilities, providers, or any entity which administers testing for COVID-19 to an uninsured individual may collect all information necessary to submit claims for reimbursement and to provide testing results to the individual but may not request or require identification documents as a condition of testing.

This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.
IT IS SO ORDERED.



Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
July 22, 2020