On March 26, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order #20-85 directing the Department of Management Services to amend its state plan documents with its health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and preferred provider organization (PPO) contracts to allow for telehealth services and immunizations in retail pharmacies. These services are available for the duration of the public health emergency period at no cost to the member, if network providers are used.

The attached Letter to Members will be mailed out in support of this directive.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this information, please contact the Division of State Group Insurance at dsgihelp@dms.myflorida.com.
March 26, 2020

Dear State Group Health Member:

State employees across Florida are providing mission critical resources and support to protect all Floridians in response to COVID-19. On March 26, 2020, Governor DeSantis increased access to care for all State Group Insurance Plan members through Executive Order 20-85. The order directed two immediate changes that will enhance your State Group Health Benefits. These changes, detailed below, are intended to provide immediate access to care that will help you and your family maintain your health and wellness during this public health emergency.

**Telehealth Access**
Effective immediately, members of the State Group Insurance Health Plans (Standard and High Deductible HMO Plans and the PPO Plan) may use telehealth to access covered health care services from in-network or contracted health care practitioners acting within the scope of their licenses and Florida law. Telehealth services, related to the diagnosis and treatment of the COVID-19 virus or any other preventive care service, will be covered the same as a visit to a participating provider in his or her physical office location.

Expanding telehealth access is vital for both those undergoing treatment of COVID-19, experiencing symptoms, or for those seeking preventative care. Telehealth also complies with the social distancing guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This special, early access to and waiver of some cost sharing for telehealth services will be effective through the end of the public health emergency period. Preventive telehealth services will become effective under your State Group Health Insurance Plan on January 1, 2021.

**Immunizations**
Effective March 26, 2020, State Group Insurance Health Plans (Standard and High Deductible Health Maintenance Plans and Preferred Provider Plan) will cover immunizations at participating in-network retail pharmacies at no cost to the member.
As medical professionals are working around the clock to support the COVID-19 response effort, many care provider offices are busier than normal. Expanding access to immunizations beyond the physical office will allow you to go directly to an in-network retail pharmacy to receive this preventative care.

Be aware that while a flu vaccination is not a cure for the COVID-19 virus, both are respiratory viruses, and this preventive measure can help lessen your chances, and your family’s chances, of illness and exposure.

The immunization benefit will be in effect through June 30, 2020, at which time it will go into effect as law for all covered immunizations, including influenza.

For more information about how to specifically access these benefits in your plan, please contact your plan directly or visit: https://www.mybenefits.myflorida.com/health/resources to link to your plan’s website. Please take advantage of these new resources during this public health emergency.

Thank you for your service to our state. Let’s keep Florida healthier together.

Sincerely,

Jonathan R. Satter
Secretary

JRS/xx

Enclosure

cc: