

## REMINDER: COVID-19 testing must be medically necessary to be covered by Blue Cross and BCN commercial health plans

As more employees head back to the office and schools and sports are in session, please remember that Blue Cross and BCN commercial health plans cover only COVID-19 testing that is considered medically necessary by an attending health care provider.

When an attending health care provider administers or refers a patient for COVID-19 testing, Blue Cross and BCN assume the health care provider has determined the test to be medically necessary, unless it's coded with a noncovered diagnosis code. Medical necessity is possible regardless of whether the patient is experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19, but **medical necessity does not include routine testing required by an employer, school or sports team or any other public surveillance.**

When submitting a claim for COVID-19 testing, be sure to include the appropriate diagnosis code.

- For medically necessary testing, including symptomatic testing and testing due to contact with and suspected exposure to COVID-19, use Z20.822 as the primary diagnosis.
- For pre-operative COVID-19 testing, use Z01.810, Z01.811, Z01.812 or Z01.818.
- For administrative or routine screening testing required by an employer, school or sports team, use codes including Z11.52 or Z11.59. These codes are not payable for commercial members.

COVID-19 testing claims are subject to a post-service review (audit).

Our Medicare Advantage plans (Medicare Plus Blue<sup>SM</sup> and BCN Advantage<sup>SM</sup>) follow CMS guidelines.

For more information, see the *COVID-19 patient testing recommendations for physicians* document on our public website at [bcbsm.com/coronavirus](https://bcbsm.com/coronavirus), or within Provider Secured Services by clicking on *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*.