Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Uninsured Group

1. **What is the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Uninsured Group program?**

   The COVID-19 Uninsured Group program is a new COVID-19 program that replaces Presumptive Eligibility (PE) for COVID-19. The COVID-19 Uninsured Group program provides temporary, no cost diagnostic testing, testing-related services, and treatment services, including all medically necessary care, which includes associated office, clinic, or emergency room visits related to COVID-19. This program is available to uninsured and underinsured individuals determined eligible by a Qualified Provider (QP) based on preliminary applicant information.

2. **What is a Qualified Provider (QP)?**

   A QP is an approved Medi-Cal provider who participates as a QP, permitted under the approved California Medicaid State Plan in relation to PE programs.

3. **What is the authority for implementing the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program?**

   On March 18, 2020, the House Resolution (H.R.) 6201 Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Section 6004, authorized State Medicaid programs the ability to cover uninsured individuals for purposes of providing COVID-19 diagnostic testing and testing-related services, at no cost to the individuals.

4. **When will the new COVID-19 Uninsured Group program changes be implemented?**

   The new COVID-19 Uninsured Group program changes will be implemented on August 28, 2020.

5. **When does the COVID-19 Uninsured Group enrollment period begin and end?**

   The COVID-19 Uninsured Group enrollment period begins on the date of application and ends on the last calendar day of the 12th month from the date of the COVID-19 Uninsured Group application in which the individual was determined eligible for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group or when the Public Health Emergency ends, whichever is sooner.

6. **Who is potentially eligible for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program?**

   To qualify for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group, individuals must:
   - Have no health insurance, or
   - Have private health insurance that does not cover at no cost all diagnostic testing, testing- related services, and treatment services, including all medically necessary care for COVID-19, or
   - Not have Medicare, or

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Uninsured Group

- Are not eligible under any of the other Medi-Cal programs (with the exception of individuals who have not met their Medi-Cal Share of Cost obligation), and
- Be a California resident.

7. Can an individual who is not a California resident get coverage under the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program?

No, you must be a California resident to be eligible for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program.

8. How does a QP access the COVID-19 Uninsured Group Application Portal?

To access the COVID-19 Uninsured Group Application Portal, follow the instructions below.

1. Access the Medi-Cal website at http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/, select "Providers" and click the "Transactions" link.
2. Enter your User ID (National Provider Identifier) and Password (Provider Identification Number) and click the "Submit" button.
3. Click the "Prgms" tab.
4. Click the "COVID-19 Uninsured Group Eligibility" link.

9. Which Internet browser should I use to access the COVID-19 Uninsured Group Application Portal?

Medi-Cal recommends that providers use the Chrome browser when accessing the COVID-19 Uninsured Group Application Portal to avoid any printing issues that may occur with other Internet browsers.

10. How long does it take to receive the COVID-19 Uninsured Group determination?

The QP will be able to view the applicants COVID-19 Uninsured Group eligibility determination in the Point of Service (POS) system in real-time once eligibility is determined

11. What services are covered under the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program?

All medically necessary services for COVID-19 will be covered under the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program. This includes medically necessary diagnostic testing, testing-related services, hospitalization and other treatment services provided at the associated office, clinic, or emergency room visit related to COVID-19. These services will be paid up to the maximum reimbursement fee-for-service (FFS) rate, in the FFS delivery system.

12. Is a Social Security Number required to apply for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Uninsured Group

If an individual has a Social Security Number (SSN) it must be provided on the Application for Coverage of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Testing Costs (MC 374).

13. **Is an individual's citizenship/immigration status verified when they apply for the new COVID-19 Uninsured Group?**

Yes, an individual's citizenship/immigration status will be electronically verified. But status is not a condition of eligibility.

14. **Are telephonic signatures accepted for the new COVID-19 Uninsured Group Application?**

Yes, in order to accept a telephonic signature, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Read the consent language aloud to the individual/Authorized Representative as it is stated on the signature page of the COVID-19 Uninsured Group Application:

By signing, I declare that what I say below is true and correct.

• I have read and understood this PE for COVID-19 Medi-Cal Application.
• The information I provided is true, correct, and complete.

2. Ask that the individual/Authorized Representative verbally acknowledge their consent

3. In the signature line, write "Verbal consent – COVID-19"

4. Be sure to document and keep documentation for all verbal consent obtained

15. **Can applications for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group be retroactive?**

Yes, per federal guidance, applications for the COVID-19 Uninsured Group can be retroactive to April 8, 2020. Qualified providers can submit retroactive applications to COVID19Apps@dhcs.ca.gov for review and processing.