



NEWS RELEASE

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Community Health Options to cover COVID-19 testing

Lewiston, Maine: Maine-based insurer Community Health Options is currently working closely with the Maine CDC and local healthcare agencies to monitor the progress of COVID-19 and are exploring ways to support all of its Members who may contract the illness, particularly those at high risk. To remove financial barriers that could prevent its Members from obtaining provider-recommended testing for COVID-19, the insurer has waived cost-sharing for that screening test, associated lab processing fees and the office visit to collect the specimen.

While no coronavirus cases have been reported in Maine to date, preparation for that possibility is imperative. According to Community Health Options President & CEO Kevin Lewis, the flexibility to meet unexpected events is one of the organization's major strengths. "Responding to our Members' needs is our organization's highest priority" he explained. "The current situation is no exception. Our team has been focused on this issue for the last few weeks. We are currently exploring ways to provide necessary supports not only for our Members who contract the virus-borne disease, but also for the healthcare providers who are the first-line responders during healthcare emergencies."

Health Options has published coronavirus updates and guidelines for preventing disease transmission on its website at www.HealthOptions.org.

About Community Health Options – *Community Health Options (Health Options) is the only Maine-based, nonprofit, Member-led health plan providing comprehensive, Member-focused health insurance benefits for individuals, families, and businesses. For more information about Health Options, visit the website: HealthOptions.org*