

Karima M. Woods, Commissioner

Commissioner's Order 02-2021

**ORDER EXTENDING COVERAGE OF COVID-19 TESTING  
FOR SYMPTOMATIC AND ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS**

WHEREAS, because of the impact of COVID-19, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public emergency with the issuance of Mayor's Orders 2020-045, which has been extended by Mayor's Order 2021-069 so long as authorized by District of Columbia law;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 3(n) of the Public Emergency Extension and Eviction and Utility Moratorium Phasing Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, A24-125, effective July 24, 2021, and any temporary act, the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking is authorized to exercise the emergency authority codified at D.C. Official Code § 31-104.01 from March 11, 2020 to November 5, 2021;

WHEREAS, as the pandemic continues to impact individuals globally and locally, public officials continue to learn more about SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, including the range of symptoms reported by individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, the incubation period for the virus, and the risk of transmission asymptomatic individuals pose in our communities;

WHEREAS, in recent months, the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 has been attributed to asymptomatic persons in large events and family gatherings across the US and abroad. These findings underscore the need for clinicians and public health practitioners to work rapidly to identify and diagnose asymptomatic individuals who are actively infected with SARS-CoV-2 and thus have the potential to transmit the virus to others;

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this objective, it is critically important that all District residents and workers covered by a health plan issued in the District have access to COVID-19 testing and that the cost for such testing be covered by their health plans regardless of their symptoms or known exposure to COVID-19; and

THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that until rescinded or no longer authorized by District of Columbia law, all carriers offering health benefit plans in the District as defined in D.C. Official Code § 31-3301.01(20) shall cover COVID-19 testing for individuals covered by a health benefit plan who meet the standards prescribed in Title 22, DCMR, Chapter B2, Section 222, “COVID-19 TESTING FOR IN-PERSON WORK AND LEARNING,” adopted by the Director of the Department of Health by emergency and proposed rulemaking on July 22, 2021, without an order of testing by a physician or other health care provider or cost sharing.

Date: July 27, 2021

*Karima M. Woods*

---

Karima M. Woods  
Commissioner  
Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

For information and resources regarding the District’s response to COVID-19, please visit:  
<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>.