

California's Health Plans: Vital Partners in California's COVID-19 Response



The health and well-being of Californians is always the highest priority for health plans and we have consistently worked to keep our communities safe from COVID-19 and its ever-evolving strains. From investments in the essential screening, testing, and treatment of COVID-19, to leading the efforts to get life-saving vaccinations to more than 60 million Californians, health plans have been assets to California throughout the pandemic.

Below is a list of highlights of the COVID-19 response efforts from California's health plans. For a more comprehensive list of health plans' COVID-19 efforts nationwide, visit [AHIP's website](#).



Working
around the
clock

California health plans are working around the clock to provide critical COVID-19 resources throughout the pandemic:

- Partnered with the State of California to build enough capacity to equitably provide over 5 million COVID-19 vaccines per week
- Offered testing and treatment for COVID-19 with zero copays or out-of-pocket expenses
- Covering at-home testing as of January 15, 2022
- Continue working to improve COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and access; including hosting community webinars in multiple languages to dispel vaccine myths and counter misinformation
- Worked throughout the pandemic to ensure that people have access to needed COVID-19 tests
- Expanded mental health resources, including expanding coverage of tele-behavioral health and covering the membership costs of mental health-focused apps
- Expanded access and removed co-pays for telehealth appointments to keep Californians safe and at home when needed
- In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, over 1 million Californians enrolled in health care coverage



Investing in health care resources

California health plans are investing in health care resources to better respond to the pandemic:

- Gave billions of dollars to providers and tens of thousands of PPE supplies to health care workers on the frontlines of COVID-19
- Creating digital tools for hospitals to digitally triage patients seeking information on COVID-19, lessening the surge while still providing access to patients
- Gave millions of dollars for Medi-Cal providers to expand telehealth, community clinics, and those serving vulnerable populations
- Provided millions of dollars to help California in its contact tracing efforts



Supporting vulnerable communities

California health plans are supporting vulnerable communities with critical health care access:

- In addition to compliance with all required actions during the pandemic, health plans have supported vulnerable populations throughout the COVID-19 crisis with funding, social services, and non-health care related services.
- California health plans have partnered with nonprofits and communities to increase access to vaccination sites, including:
 - Neighborhood pharmacy counters
 - Mobile health clinics
- Health plans have made investments in organizations that work to address Long-Haul COVID.
- Donating tens of millions of dollars in COVID supplies to schools and community-based organizations.
- As the pandemic surged, health plans made critical investments in helping California's homeless communities, including providing grants to nonprofits to help curb the spread of COVID-19 among homeless populations and provided critical investments in Project HomeKey to help build supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness - putting vulnerable Californians into safe, affordable, and healthy homes.
- Food insecurity has been worsened by the economic toll of COVID-19. To help, some health plans have provided key funding to food pantries and made donations to community organizations that prepare and deliver medically tailored meals to members with complex health conditions.

