




Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Office of Medicaid  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)

**MassHealth**  
**Community Health Center Bulletin 101**  
**May 2020**

**TO:** Community Health Center Providers Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director 

**RE:** **Temporary Flexibilities for the Provision of Laboratory Services by Community Health Centers**

### **Background**

In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth is implementing measures to expand the COVID-19 testing capacity within the Commonwealth through community health centers (CHCs). Specifically, MassHealth will allow CHCs to partner with laboratories that are not MassHealth providers to process COVID-19 diagnostic tests that cannot be processed onsite at the CHC, as further described in this bulletin.

**This bulletin shall remain effective for the duration of the state of emergency declared via [Executive Order No. 591](#).**

### **Laboratory Services Performed by Partners of CHCs**

CHCs provide essential services to MassHealth members, which may include clinical laboratory services, in community settings. MassHealth recognizes that increasing the number of COVID-19 tests administered and processed in the state is essential to detecting and preventing the spread of the virus. Accordingly, MassHealth is temporarily allowing CHCs to partner with laboratories that are not MassHealth clinical laboratory providers but that have been approved by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to process COVID-19 tests on behalf of community health centers.

Specifically, notwithstanding 130 CMR 405.432: *Laboratory Services: Eligibility to Provide Services* and 130 CMR 405.434: *Laboratory Services: Services Performed by Outside Laboratories*, CHCs may submit claims to MassHealth for COVID-19-related clinical laboratory services that are performed at laboratories outside of the CHC. In order for CHCs to bill MassHealth for such offsite COVID-19-related clinical laboratory services, the laboratories conducting the services may not be enrolled as MassHealth clinical laboratory providers, as such laboratories must continue to bill MassHealth directly for the clinical laboratory services they provide. However, in order for a CHC to partner with a non-MassHealth-enrolled laboratory and bill for the COVID-19 laboratory services conducted by such laboratories on behalf of the CHC, a laboratory must be approved by EOHHS.

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EOHHS will approve partnerships between laboratories and CHCs on a case-by-case basis. CHCs that wish to partner with a laboratory in accordance with this bulletin should contact Priscilla Portis, Director of FFS Provider Networks, via email at [priscilla.portis@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:priscilla.portis@massmail.state.ma.us). The email should provide the name and location of the laboratory as well as the services that the CHC expects the laboratory to provide. The laboratory may not begin to provide services on behalf of the CHC and the CHC may not bill for such services until EOHHS provides written notice approving the partnership.

CHCs may submit claims for COVID-19 clinical laboratory services provided by EOHHS-approved partner laboratories in the same manner as if the laboratory services were provided onsite at the CHC.

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### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, email your inquiry to [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net), or fax your inquiry to (617) 988-8974.

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