

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) elective procedure update

UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) appreciates the compassion and dedication with which you care for our members, your patients. UniCare recognizes the intense demands facing doctors, hospitals and all health care providers in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. UniCare will work closely with our state partners gathering further information and directives.

Effective April 1, 2020, [*West Virginia Executive Order 16-20*](#) prohibits all elective medical procedures. The stated purpose of this Executive Order is to help preserve medical supplies, personnel and resources for the COVID-19 crisis.

UniCare members still have access to urgent, medically necessary procedures like those needed to preserve the patient's life or long-term health. The *Executive Order 16-20* applies equally to all types of elective medical procedures performed in hospitals, offices, and clinics throughout the state. The term *elective* includes medical procedures that are not immediately medically necessary to preserve the patient's life or long-term health, except procedures that cannot be postponed without compromising the patient's long-term health, procedures that cannot be performed consistent with other law at a later date, or procedures that are religiously mandated shall not be considered *elective* under this Executive Order.

Other helpful links:

- [WV DHHR Coronavirus Disease](#) is the WV source for the latest information about COVID-19.
- [Coronavirus.gov](#) is the source for the latest information about COVID-19 prevention, symptoms and answers to common questions.
- [USA.gov](#) has the latest information about what the U.S. Government is doing in response to COVID-19.
- Review your infection prevention and control policies and [CDC's recommendations](#) for health care facilities for COVID-19.
- Refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) for the most up-to-date recommendations about COVID-19 including signs and symptoms, diagnostic testing, and treatment information.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication contact our Customer Care Center at **1-800-782-0095**.