



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Highmark waives deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays for in-network, inpatient hospital care for COVID-19 treatment**

**Pittsburgh, PA (April 2, 2020)** — Highmark has announced that members who require in-network, inpatient hospital care for COVID-19 will not incur any deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays, effective immediately. The decision applies to members with group employer coverage (self-funded groups may elect to opt into the program), as well as ACA and Medicare members. Highmark previously waived out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 testing and telehealth, and is now doing the same for related inpatient hospitalization following a positive test.

“Our number one priority – especially during this crisis – is to make sure that our members receive the care that they need,” Deborah Rice-Johnson, president of Highmark Inc. “With this decision, we are removing potential barriers our members may face in receiving care for COVID-19. It is the right thing to do for our members and for our community.”

The waiver will continue through May 31 as Highmark continues to monitor and evaluate the rapidly changing nature of this crisis.

And to help ensure members can continue to safely receive care, Highmark has also expanded access to telehealth services for all members and has waived out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, coinsurance and copayments on all covered telehealth services from contracted vendors and providers through June 13, 2020.

“During this crisis, telehealth is an option for members to safely receive care without going to a doctor’s office or hospital and risking exposure,” said Rice-Johnson. “Using telemedicine also frees up medical facilities to treat those who are most in need of care, which is vitally important as the virus continues to spread.”

Highmark has also expanded access to both in- and out-of-network teleaddiction services for members in PA, WV and DE who are in addiction treatment and need immediate help without any out-of-pocket costs.

**About Highmark Inc.**

One of America's leading health insurance organizations and an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Highmark Inc. (the Health Plan) and its affiliated health plans (collectively, the Health Plans) work passionately to deliver high-quality, accessible, understandable, and affordable experiences, outcomes, and solutions to customers. As the fourth-largest overall Blue Cross Blue Shield-affiliated organization, Highmark Inc. and its Blue-branded affiliates proudly cover the insurance needs of more than 5.2 million members in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia. Its diversified businesses serve group customer and individual needs across the United States through dental insurance and other related businesses. For more information, visit [www.highmark.com](http://www.highmark.com).