



Expanded Benefits

In response to the current conditions related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the need to limit the spread of the virus while maintaining access to care, SAMBA has expanded our telemedicine benefit. Since March 16, 2020, SAMBA members and their dependents have been able to receive telehealth services, including office visits, mental health counseling and preventative health screenings, conducted by providers such as: physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical psychologists, and clinical social workers. Normal copay, coinsurance and deductible amounts are applied to these services. Additionally, SAMBA continues to offer coverage for telemedicine visits through Teladoc providers. Visit [Teladoc.com](https://www.teladoc.com) or call 1-800-TELADOC (835-2362) for more information about the Teladoc program.

For COVID-19 diagnostic testing, SAMBA will waive member costs for the testing and associated medical visit when the testing is ordered by a doctor or other health care provider.

These expanded benefits will be in place for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Currently there is no known treatment for COVID-19 beyond treating the symptoms of the disease. Patients who get seriously ill from the virus may need a variety of inpatient and outpatient services. Normal copay, coinsurance and deductible amounts would apply to these services.

Vaccines

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized two COVID-19 vaccines to date and others may become available in the future. FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines will be covered under the SAMBA Health Benefit Plan with no out-of-pocket expense for members regardless of whether a COVID-19 vaccine requires the administration of multiple doses.

Medicare Information

For members and dependents with Medicare Part B coverage, lab tests for COVID-19 are covered with no out-of-pocket costs when it is ordered by a doctor or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. Medicare has also temporarily expanded its coverage of [telehealth services](#) to ensure patients are able to visit with their doctors from their homes, without having to go to a doctor's office or hospital, which could put the patients and others at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The CARES Act stipulates that Medicare is required to cover COVID-19 vaccines under Part B with no cost sharing. [Click here](#) for the latest information on how Medicare is responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

For the most up-to-date information about Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).