



Denali KidCare/Medicaid HealthCheck News

Protect Against COVID-19

A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available. The COVID-19 vaccine is free of charge to all Medicaid beneficiaries and local transportation may also be available if you need assistance getting to your appointment. Contact your primary healthcare provider or visit <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/vaccineappointments.aspx> to make an appointment today.

Immunizations Save Lives

Protect your child at all ages. Diseases like measles, polio, and whooping cough (pertussis) still exist. Immunizations protect children and adults from these and other serious but preventable diseases. Ask your health care provider at every checkup to make sure that all immunizations are up-to-date. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/> to view the Immunization Schedule for your child. Visit <https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/> for fun tools and resources about immunizations. For more information call the Alaska Immunization Helpline at 1-907-269-8088 or toll free 1-888-430-4321.

Alaska Medicaid has a New Member Portal!

Alaska Medicaid is starting the year with a new Member Portal! You can now review Medicaid services billed on your behalf, verify your copayment amounts, and tell us about your visit. Register to access the member portal at <https://member.medicaidalaska.com>.

The Division of Public Assistance Offices have Moved!

The Division of Public Assistance offices located at 400 Gambell Street, 3601 C Street, and 1251 Muldoon Road will merge into one location at the University Center Mall in Anchorage in March 2021. For further information please see <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/contacts.aspx>

Anchorage Bus Pass Program!

Alaska Medicaid is pleased to announce the availability of People Mover mTicket bus passes. Daily, weekly, or monthly bus passes, depending on the number of scheduled medical appointments, can be delivered directly to your smart phone or mailed to you if you do not have a smart phone. As long as the mTicket or paper bus pass is used to

attend your child's medical appointment you may also use it for other transportation needs on the date(s) it is valid. Please contact the Well-Child Transportation program at 907-269-4575 for more information. A minimum of one business day advance notice is required to facilitate transportation requests. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Checkups are for Teens and Young Adults Too!

Denali KidCare/Medicaid pays for teens and young adults to receive checkups. It is important for your them to see a health care provider when they are sick, but it is just as important for them to go when they are feeling fine. Regular checkups help to detect any problems early and keeps them up-to-date on their immunizations. Regular checkups will also ensure your he or she has a healthcare provider who knows them well.

What happens during an adolescent checkup?

- You can ask any questions you may have
- Head to toe exam
- Receive important immunizations
- Discuss nutrition and exercise
- Assess their behaviors and emotions
- Vision and hearing screening
- Dental screening
- Referrals to a specialist if needed
- Learn what to expect as they grow into adults

When should your teen or adolescent have a well-child checkup?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children receive a well-child checkup every year from 10 to 21 years old. For more information on well-child checkups and services available to you please visit the State of Alaska Early Periodic Screening and Treatment website at https://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Pages/epsdt_hcs.aspx



Concussions and Your Teen

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth—literally causing the brain to bounce around or twist within the skull. Concussions can result from a fall or from athletes colliding with each other or other obstacle. Signs of a concussion include headache, nausea or vomiting, balance problems or dizziness, double or blurry vision, sensitivity to light, sensitivity to noise, feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy, concentration or memory problems, confusion, just not “feeling right”. If you suspect your child may have a concussion, contact your health care provider immediately. Healthcare professionals have a number of methods in assessing the severity of concussions. For more information about concussions go to <http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/index.html> or join the conversation at www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp.

Eye Care Coverage

Denali KidCare/Medicaid covers eye exams and eye glasses. Important things to know about your coverage:

- One company makes all of the eyeglasses that Denali KidCare/Medicaid buys. The same eye doctor that gives you a prescription can order your glasses
- Denali KidCare/Medicaid covers only certain frames. Popular styles are available for boys and girls of all ages. Scratch-resistant coating on plastic lenses is included for anyone under the age of 21
- If you want different frames or a feature that is not covered, you will need to pay the entire cost of the glasses yourself. The amount that Denali KidCare would have paid can't be applied to the cost of other glasses
- Denali KidCare/Medicaid does not usually pay for contact lenses
- Denali KidCare/Medicaid does not pay for progressive lenses
- If your child has special vision care needs or breaks a pair of glasses, your eye doctor will work with Denali KidCare/Medicaid to get more services approved.

Alaska's Adolescent Health Program

In partnership with national and local organizations, the State of Alaska's Adolescent Health Program aims to promote positive youth development and reduce negative health outcomes for all young Alaskans ages 10-25 years old. Five areas of focus include:

- Promote positive youth development and resiliency
- Prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- Substance use and abuse
- Mental health and wellness
- Prevent violence and bullying

Useful Contacts:

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| Recipient Helpline Information about Denali KidCare/Medicaid billing, help in finding a provider and coverage questions | 800-780-9972 | memberhelp@conduent.com |
| Denali KidCare Program Applications & enrollment questions | 907-269-6529 888-318-8890 | http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/dkc/default.aspx |
| Well-Child Travel Program Local transportation assistance | 907-269-4575 888-276-0606 | hcs.wellchildtrans@alaska.gov |
| Immunization Hotline | 907-269-8088 888-430-4321 | https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/nursing/Pages/Services-Resource-Pages/Immunizations.aspx |
| Medical Emergent Need Helpline | 844-231-7880 | hss.dpa.offices@alaska.gov |
| Pregnant Woman Helpline | 844-864-2229 | hss.dpa.offices@alaska.gov |

Visit <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/adolescent/default.aspx> for further information and resources about teen and young adult health.

Physical activity can improve health and learning

Children should get at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day for the best health. Daily physical activity helps children grow up at a healthy weight. Active kids learn better. When kids are physically active, they can focus more, react to stress more calmly, and perform and behave better in class. Parents can help their children be more physically active by making activity an important part of the family's daily lifestyle.



Limit TV and computer time that's not related to school work, and make it a priority to spend time being active with your children. For more information on fun activities for your family, visit Play Every Day at <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/PlayEveryDay/Pages/default.aspx>

Local Transportation Assistance

Denali KidCare/Medicaid offers bus passes, mileage reimbursement or taxi rides to and from medical or dental appointments. This assistance is available to children under 21 or pregnant women who are currently eligible for Denali KidCare/Medicaid. Remember, Denali KidCare/Medicaid will approve the least expensive method of travel available in your community. For travel within the Anchorage area contact the Well Child Transportation program by phone at 1-907-269-4575, toll free at 1-888-276-0606, or by e-mail at hcs.wellchildtrans@alaska.gov. For travel outside the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Kenai Peninsula areas contact your local Public Health Center. You can find information about your local Public Health Center at <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Nursing/Pages/locations.aspx>.

A minimum of one business day advance notice is required to facilitate transportation requests. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Smiles for Life

Tooth decay is one of the most common preventable diseases seen in children today. Cavities in teeth can cause pain and prevent children from being able to eat, speak, sleep and learn properly. Denali KidCare/Medicaid recommends that all children receive fluoride varnish to prevent new cavities and help stop cavities that may have already started.

Fluoride varnish is a protective medication that is painted on teeth to prevent cavities. It is quick and easy to apply, does not have a bad taste and there is no pain. Dental Sealants are another tool used to prevent cavities. The sealants are placed in the grooves of permanent teeth to help protect them from cavities. Speak to your provider to see if the services are right for your child.

Another way to prevent cavities is to serve your children water or low-fat milk instead of sugary drinks. Drinks with added sugar — like powdered mixes, sweetened fruit drinks, sports and energy drinks, vitamin-enhanced drinks, and soda — can lead to tooth decay, type 2 diabetes, and unhealthy weight gain. Even one bottle of soda or one glass of a powdered mix has more added sugar than children should have in one day, based on <https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/>. Visit <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/PlayEveryDay/Pages/default.aspx> to find tips for choosing healthy drinks for your family.