

## **SUMMARY OF MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 219 HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN**

With the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 219 Health & Welfare (Plan) Board of Trustees would like to provide this update regarding COVID-19, steps to prevent the spread of the virus, and related changes to your Plan's schedule of benefits. Effective March 18, 2020, the Trustees changed the Plan as follows:

*The Plan will cover COVID-19 testing at 100% (no cost sharing) as required by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201). This act includes diagnostic tests (and administration of such tests) to detect the virus that are approved or authorized by the FDA and services furnished during provider office visits (whether in person or via telehealth) urgent care visits, and emergency room visits that result in an order for a COVID-19 test or administration of one. **The Plan's deductible and co-insurance requirements will not apply.***

*The Plan's prescription drug manager, CVS/Caremark is waiving early refill limits on 30-day prescriptions for maintenance medications at any in-network pharmacy. This will allow you to keep at least a 30-day emergency supply of their medication at hand.*

As a reminder, the Plan offers Telemedicine Service, **Anthem (LiveHealth Online)**. Members can use their smartphones or tablets to access virtual office visits 24/7 with healthcare providers (No Cost to participants). You can access this service by visiting [liveheathonline.com](http://liveheathonline.com) or call toll free at 1-855-603-7985. Please note, that the wait times for all telehealth providers, are significantly longer than normal due to the National Emergency. If you choose to seek care at a physician's office, please call your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel, if applicable, and your symptoms. They may give instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. Please note that the wait times for all types of same day and urgent care, are currently significantly longer than normal due to COVID-19.

The available information about how the virus that causes COVID-19 spread is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses. However, COVID-19 is a new disease and there is more to learn about its transmission, the severity of illness it causes, and to what extent it may spread in the United States. According to the CDC, a person may develop symptoms of the COVID-19 virus within 14 days of exposure. Symptoms include feeling sick with an acute respiratory illness, such as a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. Members who may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who have symptoms, such as coughing or a fever, are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider. But, before going into a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell the facility about the symptoms and any recent travel.

As there is no present vaccine to prevent COVID-19, the CDC recommends the following to prevent the spread of the virus:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when sick;
- Cover coughs or sneezes with tissues or cough into the elbow area, then discard the tissue in the trash and follow up with handwashing; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces regularly.

More information about COVID-19 may be found at the following links:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- Ohio Department of Health: [www.ODH.Ohio.gov](http://www.ODH.Ohio.gov)
- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int>

*Sincerely,  
Board of Trustees  
March 2020*