



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 31, 2020

Dear Health Plan:

I am writing regarding Child Health Plus (CHPlus) family premium contributions during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

During this time, one of the NYS Department of Health's (Department) priorities is to ensure that all New York State residents have health insurance coverage. To help achieve that goal, health plans should refrain from disenrolling children who fail to pay their monthly premium contribution for the CHPlus program until subsequent notice from the Department, which will be provided prior to or upon the expiration of the state disaster emergency declared by [Executive Order No. 202](#). Health plans should continue to attempt to collect the family premium contribution on a monthly basis, but if the payment is not received during this time, children should remain enrolled and any medical services provided should be covered. The State will continue to reimburse plans for the state/federal share of the premium.

While plans are not required to provide a grace period to children in the full payment category, we would like to remind health plans that they have the discretion to extend the grace period to that population. We encourage health plans to make this grace period available to families who are experiencing a financial hardship during this difficult time. Families should also be reminded to update their application on the [NY State of Health](#) if they have a change in circumstance which could make them eligible for CHPlus at a lower family premium contribution level, or potentially eligible for Medicaid. Health plan assistors should assist families with this process, if needed.

Please feel free to contact me or your contract manager at (518) 473-0566 if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Armenia
Director, Bureau of Child Health Plus
and Marketplace Consumer Assistance
Division of Eligibility and Marketplace
Integration
Office of Health Insurance Programs