GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Undocumented Immigrant Workers

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Many undocumented immigrants work in a variety of essential jobs, such as farm employees, grocery store clerks, delivery truck drivers, and more. These jobs often involve long work hours and close contact with other individuals, which can expose them to COVID-19 daily. This document provides information on COVIID-19 testing and medical care for undocumented immigrant workers.

COVID-19 Testing and medical care

Don't let fear stop you from getting necessary medical care. The effects of avoiding health care services may be very serious. This will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy. You can get testing and medical care for COVID-19 if you are undocumented, even if you don't have health insurance.

If you feel sick, with symptoms of fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea do not be afraid to seek medical assistance or call a doctor. Although undocumented people are usually uninsured, you can still receive health care through free/low-cost clinics that serve the uninsured. Undocumented people are not turned away from free/low-cost clinics. Visit Georgia Charitable Care Network (GCCN) to find a clinic in your county that provides care to those without health insurance http://charitablecarenetwork.com/resources/find-a-clinic/

Free testing for COVID-19 is available at DPH run Specimen Point of Collection sites (SPOCs) that can be contacted by calling a number found at https://dph.georgia.gov/covidtesting.

If you are experiencing an emergency, go to the nearest hospital. Almost all hospitals in Georgia receive federal funding and cannot turn uninsured patients away.

Public Charge Rule and ICE

Receiving COVID-19 testing or medical care does not count under the public charge rule because it is the treatment of an emergency medical condition. The federal government has said that using health care services for COVID-19 prevention, testing or medical care "will not negatively affect any alien as part of a future Public Charge analysis." More information about public charge can be found at: https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has stated it "will not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances." They have also stated that "Individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement."

Please review this list of immigration services from nonprofit organizations in Georgia that provide services for immigrants, including free- and low-cost immigration legal services https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/search?state=GA.

Protect Yourself and Others

Take the following steps to protect yourself and others:

- Practice social distancing by putting at least 6 feet between yourself and others
- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms daily
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Follow the COVID-19 safety guidelines set forth by your employer

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and can range from mild to severe illness:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you develop any of these **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately by dialing 9-1-1:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

Notify the 9-1-1 operator that you might have COVID-19. If possible, put on a cloth face covering before medical help arrives.

For more information about COVID-19 visit the Georgia Department of Public Health at https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus or call 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584).

For guidance related to farmworkers, please see DPH guidance:

- English - https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/interim-guidance-farmworkers-and-their-employers/download
- Spanish - https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/interim-guidance-farmworkers-and-their-employers-spanish/download