

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: August 27, 2021

Subject: State of Emergency Information – Tropical Storm Ida (1st Revision)

Summary: Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a state of emergency for the entire state ahead of Tropical Storm Ida’s expected landfall as a hurricane.

State of Emergency

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a state of emergency for the entire state ahead of Tropical Storm Ida’s expected landfall as a hurricane. Here are some resources and information that may be beneficial to you and to our impacted members:

- Emergency medical management processes are in place, in accordance with [LDH Informational Bulletin 21-17](#), and temporary adjustments have been made to normal prior authorization processes to support members who may have fled their homes without essentials like medication and medical supplies/equipment. Any member who is in need of replacement durable medical equipment (DME) or previously-approved supplies may contact any DME provider enrolled in Medicaid or contracted with AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana to obtain a replacement. For the extent of this emergency, members will not be required to have a new prescription and medical documentation for the replacement equipment or supplies. Members who were approved to receive medical equipment, supplies, home health services, pediatric day health care, rehabilitation or personal care services from a provider that is no longer in business or unable to provide the approved equipment, supplies or services may obtain the approved items or services from a new provider of their choice. The provider must be enrolled in Medicaid or contracted with AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will provide any necessary guidance to the provider on the cancelation of the original authorization and issuance of a new authorization, if applicable. All other prior authorization requests will continue to be subject to the applicable requirements to establish medical necessity.
- In the event of mandatory evacuations in identified parishes, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will temporarily lift pharmacy edits to allow refill approvals for the residents in those parishes. In the meantime, it is recommended pharmacists use professional judgment to allow early refills of maintenance medications. To complete this process, please contact PerformRx at 800-684-5502.
- Use of out-of-network and/or out-of-state providers will be allowed for medically necessary services.
- AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana’s Community Wellness Centers in Shreveport and New Orleans will be closed on **Monday, August 30, 2021**. The Shreveport location will remain closed on **Tuesday, August 31, 2021**; however, our Provider Services (1-888-922-0007) and Members Services (1-888-756-0004) lines will remain open.
- Please reiterate the importance of “Turn Around, Don’t Drown!” in your interactions with members. Remind them to never drive through flood waters. It’s not worth the risk!

Additional resources:

- 911 is still the best number to call for emergencies and evacuation assistance.
- Red Cross Louisiana Flood Response Information, including shelter info: <http://www.redcross.org/local/louisiana/flood-information>
- FEMA Flood Disaster Facts: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/116376>
- Register flood damage at www.disasterassistance.gov, or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA, even if your parish is not currently in the federal disaster declaration.
- LaDOTD Road Closures: <http://www.511la.org/>
- Storm preparation resources [on the AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana website.](#)

Questions: Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

Missed an alert?

You can find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.

Where can I find more information on COVID-19?

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for up-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.