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Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Awarded National Association of Medicaid Directors Spotlight Award for Vaccination Efforts

~Efforts Resulted in Approximately 275,000 Individuals Getting Vaccinated, with no mandates in place~

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Today, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) announced it has been awarded a Spotlight Award from the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) for its work to enhance COVID-19 vaccination rates of Florida Medicaid members.

“From the onset of the pandemic, Governor DeSantis prioritized the safety and protection of Florida’s most vulnerable residents, including seniors,” said **Agency Secretary Simone Marsteller**. “Our Agency followed his lead and worked diligently with Medicaid managed care plans to ensure that Florida Medicaid members had access to and were provided information to assist them in making this personal decision. We are proud to be recognized alongside our plan partners that resulted in approximately 275,000 additional Medicaid members who opted to receive the vaccine, with no vaccine mandates in Florida.”

“I am proud of our team for thinking outside of the box to inform Florida’s most vulnerable residents on the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination and working together to eliminate barriers to receiving it,” said **Tom Wallace, Agency Deputy Secretary of Medicaid**. “Now these innovative strategies are being expanded to improve other outcomes such as mental health follow-ups after emergency room visits. Our efforts are setting the stage for continual improvement in health outcomes for Florida’s Medicaid members.”

The Agency recognized the need to ensure that Florida Medicaid members were educated on the COVID-19 vaccination and eliminating any barriers to receiving the vaccination, such as transportation issues. To increase COVID-19 vaccination rates among Medicaid members, the Agency designed an incentive to encourage the Medicaid managed care plans to increase their outreach to members, educating on and offering the vaccine to eligible members.

In response to this initiative, 11 out of 12 managed care plans surpassed the 50 percent minimum threshold, and one managed care plan vaccinated over 70 percent of their members. This initiative resulted in approximately 275,000 more Medicaid members receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, without vaccine mandates in Florida.



The Agency also led weekly meetings with the managed care plans to develop several initiatives to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines, including:

- Rapid-cycle population health data reporting.
- Pharmacy desert mapping.
- Development of new homebound care departments and new transportation arrangements for members.
- Greater use of peer supports in outreach to patients with mental health and substance use, new partnerships with faith-based organizations, and increased integration of vaccine-related efforts and primary care services in community mental health centers.
- New incentives for providers, two-way data sharing with provider networks on member vaccination status and Continuing Medical Education (CME) webinars on vaccination.

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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 48,000 health care facilities and 47 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#) and [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#).