



## Immigrant Healthcare Resources and Rights in Response to Coronavirus

In a time with so much fear and confusion around the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to ensure that accurate information is flowing throughout immigrant communities in Illinois. This is a matter of public health: the health of all Illinoisans can only be as strong as those that are uninsured and most vulnerable in our communities. In that spirit, we want to clarify healthcare resources to be aware about:

- **During this crisis, all people living in Illinois, whether documented or undocumented, have the same access to healthcare and to testing. You will have access to testing even if you are uninsured.** If you suspect you are sick or have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive, do not let your immigration status prevent you from obtaining medical help. You cannot be denied access to the testing to determine if you may have the coronavirus nor to treatment that you need based on your immigration status.
- **Free testing is available in Illinois but priority is being given to the most vulnerable:** those with higher risk of complications, heart and lung disease, or those that are immunocompromised. If you think you have it, please call your healthcare provider to determine your need for testing and to establish arrangements- do not put others at risk. **To find a health clinic close to you, use the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights' [interactive map of all of the health clinics in the state of Illinois](#)** or contact their Family Support Hotline at 855-435-7693. All of these are available regardless of immigration status and are low cost or free.
- Because of the government's declared state of emergency, Illinois is filing a request to potentially expand Medicaid to people that are uninsured to help ease access to medical services. As we learn more, we will continue updating you about what this may mean for additional healthcare resources.

### [You Still Have Healthcare Rights](#)

- Health care workers should not ask for your immigration status. Hospital emergency rooms must help anyone who needs emergency services and community health centers also must help anyone. They will treat you whether or not you have insurance, money or immigration documents. If someone asks you about health insurance, you can say "I am not eligible for health insurance and do not want to apply."
- It is safe and smart to see the doctor and to go to the emergency room if you need care. Your health care provider will honor your right to privacy.
- Everyone has a right to an interpreter when seeking health care. You have a right to an interpreter at no cost when seeking care at a hospital or community health center.
- Hospitals or doctors may ask for a photo ID to show that the person getting treatment is the same person listed on medical records or a prescription. If you do not have a photo ID, you can say "I am in need of medical care but do not have a photo ID."