

# Network Notification

**Notice Date:** April 16, 2020  
**To:** Ohio Providers  
**From:** CareSource  
**Subject:** COVID-19: Temporary Expansion for Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Influenza Virus Infection and Streptococcus A and B  
**Effective Date:** April 1, 2020

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*Beginning on May 12, 2023, this notification is expiring in alignment with the end of the Public Health Emergency.*

## Summary

CareSource is continuing to monitor data in an effort to identify trends to ensure that all barriers to care are removed as they relate to COVID-19. CareSource has noticed an increase in claims for molecular diagnostic testing for influenza and streptococcus A and B that are resulting in denials based on our current published reimbursement policies. Due to this, CareSource has taken the following actions to support testing payment and ensure our policies do not delay diagnosis or cause administrative burdens.

## Impact

We are temporarily expanding our reimbursement policy for COVID-19 testing to include testing for influenza and streptococcus A and B. This expansion is effective for claims filed on or after 04/01/2020 and is subject to the following requirements for diagnostic testing:

- Member meets all recommended [clinical criteria for testing](#) of COVID-19 as outlined in the guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - **Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Influenza:** CPT codes 87651 or 87653 must be billed on the same date of service and rendered by the same physician as the HCPCS code U0002 for COVID-19 testing.
  - **Molecular Diagnostics Testing for Streptococcus A and B:** CPT code 87501 or 87502 must be billed on the same date of service and rendered by the same physician as the HCPCS code U0002 for COVID-19 testing.