

YourFLVoice

Insight from Your Insurance Consumer Advocate



Call, Don't Cancel -

Encouraging Children Preventative Services During the Pandemic

Preventative medical screenings and care are necessary to assess physical and cognitive development in children, and can help detect autism, developmental delays and other conditions early.

A 2020 analysis from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reveals that from March to May, compared to 2019, there was a 44 percent decline in the number of child screening services received by the nearly 40 million children who receive Medicaid and are in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Even more shocking, there was a 69 percent decline in the number of dental services received. **CMS cautions that missing these essential services and screenings can have long-term negative impacts on children's health outcomes.**



CHILD
HEALTH
DAY
2020

Understandably, parents and guardians may be wary of potential COVID-19 risks when visiting a doctor's or dental office and may opt to cancel a scheduled appointment. Instead, contact the provider to discuss their COVID-19 preventative measures.

Many providers have taken additional hygienic steps to ensure their facility is sanitized and comfortable for patients, such as:

- Limiting the number of visitors who accompany a patient
- Requiring patients and guests to wait in their vehicles until it's their turn to be seen
- Spacing patient appointments to allow for sanitizing and cleaning in between
- Wearing additional personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Instituting temperature checks and COVID-19 screenings before entering the facility

If the preventative measures that the provider has in place do not increase your comfort level, speak with the provider about alternatives or other options instead of cancelling the appointment.

Fl♥rida KidCare

Depending on your insurance policy, preventative screenings and services may be free, low cost or have a specific co-pay. If you are in need of insurance for your child, you may benefit from one of the four insurance programs offered by Florida KidCare.

Florida KidCare's quality, affordable, child-centered health and dental insurance programs are offered to children up to 18 years old. The insurance programs are free, subsidized or full-pay based on your family's income and household size.

For more information about Florida KidCare,
visit www.FloridaKidCare.org.

Today, on Child Health Day, contact your child's medical or dental provider to schedule an appointment! Your child's long-term health may be at risk.

Fl♥rida KidCare

KIDS OUGHTA
BE COVERED

Call, Don't Cancel!

www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/ICA

FLORIDA'S INSURANCE CONSUMER
ADVOCATE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Tasha Carter

Office of the Insurance Consumer Advocate
Florida Department of Financial Services
200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399
YourFLVoice@MyFloridaCFO.com

Let's stay connected.

Follow me on **Facebook** and **Twitter**:
[@YourFLVoice](https://www.facebook.com/YourFLVoice)

Feel free to send me an email with
insurance questions or concerns:
YourFLVoice@MyFloridaCFO.com

CONSUMER ALERTS
SIGN UP. BE INFORMED.



Sign up to receive ICA Tasha Carter's Consumer Alerts in your inbox:

www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/ICA/ConsumerAlerts