

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

COVID-19 Information Tool

OMAP Announcement 04-07-2020-02

AUDIENCE:

All County Administrators of the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)
All Brokers of the MATP
All Contracted Transit Agencies of the MATP

Purpose:

The Office of Medical Assistance Programs, Bureau of Managed Care is issuing this Operations Memorandum to notify all county administrators of the MATP, all brokers of the MATP, and all contracted transit agencies of the MATP (collectively referred to as MATP agencies) **of the new temporary mileage reimbursement rate under the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP).**

Background:

Currently, under the MATP and as outlined in the Standards and Guidelines, MATP agencies must reimburse consumers who choose to use their own or someone else's vehicle to get to their medical appointment, pharmacy or supplier of medical equipment. The present rate is **\$.12 cents per mile** and the consumer must be reimbursed for tolls and parking expenses supported by valid receipts.

Discussion:

In an effort to ease the difficulties some of the MATP agencies may be experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and support the use of the mileage reimbursement option, effective April 1, 2020 and continuing until the emergency declaration ends, MATP agencies shall reimburse consumers **\$.25 cents per mile** when travel is to a Medicaid covered service. Reimbursement will continue to be available for tolls and parking expenses incurred when travel is to a Medicaid covered service provided a valid receipt is presented.

This temporary mileage reimbursement rate shall apply to all consumers who have been determined appropriate for the mileage reimbursement mode of transportation. In addition, the MATP agency shall, upon confirming access to a vehicle, offer the mileage reimbursement mode to consumers whenever possible.

County MATP agencies are still responsible for following existing policies and procedures for the mileage reimbursement program, including the requirement for consumers to submit the required paperwork/forms and verifying all trips/mileage. The MATP agency shall inform and confirm understanding by the consumer that the mileage reimbursement rate increase is temporary. The consumer should also be reminded that if the consumer continues to have access to a personal vehicle to get to and from medical appointments, he or she will remain on the mileage reimbursement program after the emergency declaration period ends.

Next Steps:

The temporary mileage reimbursement rate shall be effective April 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until the end of the emergency declaration period. MATP agencies must ensure that transportation service providers contracted to manage mileage reimbursement on behalf of the county are aware of this temporary mileage reimbursement rate.

MATP agencies shall notify all current users of the mileage reimbursement program of the temporary mileage reimbursement rate via a notice developed by the DHS.

Please contact your Program Monitor should you have any questions.

This guidance will remain in effect while a valid disaster declaration by the Governor related to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect. OMAP may re-issue this guidance as appropriate.

Visit the PA Department of Health's dedicated [Coronavirus webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. Please continue to check the DHS' COVID-19 [website](#) for updates for DHS providers. Thank you for your service to MATP consumers.