

Telehealth Update – June 19, 2020

As Coloradans have continued to adapt to a new reality where more and more things are done online in order to reduce in-person interactions, one of the most important developments to emerge is the use of telehealth services.

To help, the state has taken steps to make it easier for Coloradans to receive health care from the comfort and safety of their own home using a:

- Mobile phone;
- Computer; or
- Home phone

The Office of E-Health Innovation made Colorado a leader in telehealth before this pandemic, and has gone above and beyond in recent months to expand telehealth options for residents.

Governor Polis took executive action at the beginning of this pandemic to ensure that insurers, including Indian Health Services and Medicaid, continue to reimburse providers for telehealth services. And the legislature followed suit, passing legislation to protect that access.

Today, the Governor announced another initiative: a centralized website -- healthathome.colorado.gov -- for Coloradans to get information about telehealth.

The Health at Home Colorado website, available in English and Spanish, is intended to encourage visitors to engage in virtual visits with their provider, through their insurance, or find free resources for accessing virtual care.

In addition, the site includes a toolkit with campaign materials that can be used by community partners to increase the awareness of virtual care. This is incredibly important for Coloradans in rural and mountain communities so they can access care without traveling long distances, and a lifeline for those served by federally qualified health centers.

The more people use telehealth, the more interactions we can avoid, and the more we can do to suppress COVID-19.