



**Dear RPEA Members--**

**The following is a message issued by Medicare concerning coverage of testing to see if you have Coronavirus.**

***Sharon Hoffbeck***

President

Retired Public Employees of Alaska

**Medicare--March 5, 2020:**

You've likely heard about the Coronavirus (officially called "2019-Novel Coronavirus" or "COVID-19") in the news. **While there isn't a vaccine yet and the immediate health risk remains low**, Medicare is still here to help.

Your Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers a test to see if you have Coronavirus. This test is covered when your doctor or a health care provider orders it, if you get the test on or after February 4, 2020. You usually pay nothing for Medicare-covered clinical diagnostic laboratory tests.

To prevent the spread of this illness or other illnesses, including the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water,
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze,
  - Stay home when you're sick, and
  - See your doctor if you think you're ill.

Visit [The Centers for Disease Control website](#) for information on the Coronavirus.

**Learn More**

Sincerely,

The Medicare Team

Note: Your provider will need to wait until after April 1, 2020 to submit a claim to Medicare for this test.