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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Blue Cross NC Online Newsroom:** <http://mediacenter.bcbsnc.com>

**For Immediate Release: August 2, 2022**

### **Blue Cross NC Extends Telehealth Policy Through End of 2022**

*Expanded policy will continue covering virtual visits the same as in-person*

**DURHAM N.C.** – Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) is extending its current telehealth policy through December 31, 2022. Blue Cross NC has covered telehealth for more than 20 years, expanded its policy at the onset of the pandemic and will continue to cover virtual visits the same as in-person visits.

“Telehealth continues to be a tool that removes barriers to care for our members,” said Dr. Stephen Friedhoff, senior vice president of Health Care Services at Blue Cross NC. “Regardless of where they live or other extenuating circumstances, extending our current telehealth policy gives members more options so they can find a provider when they need care.”

The policy applies to all Blue Cross NC commercial plans and Medicare Advantage plans offered and administered by Blue Cross NC, including the State Health Plan. Members of the Federal Employee Program have telehealth covered at parity with in-person visits until further notice. The extended policy does not apply to Blue Cross NC members getting care from out-of-state providers. Providers may continue to use the platform of their choosing for telehealth services.

Blue Cross NC continues to study telehealth data and will update its policy in the future to best serve members and ensure that telehealth remains a tool that improves health and increases access to affordable health care. More information on Blue Cross NC’s COVID-19-related coverage and policies is available at [BlueCrossNC.com/Coronavirus](https://www.bluecrossnc.com/Coronavirus).

#### **About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) is committed to making health care better, simpler and more affordable. We have been driving better health in North Carolina since 1933, working to tackle our communities’ greatest health challenges. Blue Cross NC serves its customers and communities of more than 4.2 million members, including approximately 1.1 million on behalf of other Blue Plans. Blue Cross NC is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Visit Blue Cross NC online at [www.bluecrossnc.com](https://www.bluecrossnc.com). All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

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