

COVID-19: Finding Care When Uninsured

Coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, is a new respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The most common signs and symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, which are similar to the symptoms of influenza and other respiratory viruses. Some people are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19, including:

- People over 60 years of age. The risk increases significantly thereafter and escalates with age, with persons over age 80 in the highest risk category.
- People, regardless of age, with underlying health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, or chronic lung diseases like COPD, as well as those with severely weakened immune systems.

When to seek care

If you're at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19, you need to seek medical care early, even if your illness is mild. Healthcare professionals will evaluate your health and decide whether you need to be tested.

If you're NOT at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19, you do NOT need to be evaluated in person and do NOT need to be tested for COVID-19. Keep in mind that there is no treatment for COVID-19 and if you're mildly ill, there is no need to call a healthcare provider. You should stay home away from others.

If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. In adults, emergency warning signs include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or difficulty awakening the person
- Bluish lips or face

What if you don't have a doctor?

If you do not have a medical provider, are uninsured, or have limited or no income and believe you need non-emergency medical services, you can contact your nearest community health center (CHC) by phone and inform them of your need. They will work with you to coordinate appropriate care. In cases of emergency, please call 911.

There are approximately 165 CHCs throughout the city of Chicago, so find one that is close to you. You can find your nearest CHC at [findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov/findahealthcenter)

What is a community health center (CHC)?

CHCs are patient-centered healthcare organizations that serve as a comprehensive and cost-effective primary health care option for America's most underserved communities including persons with limited or no income and the uninsured. CHCs increase access to health care and provide integrated services based on the unique needs of the communities that they serve.

How much do services cost?

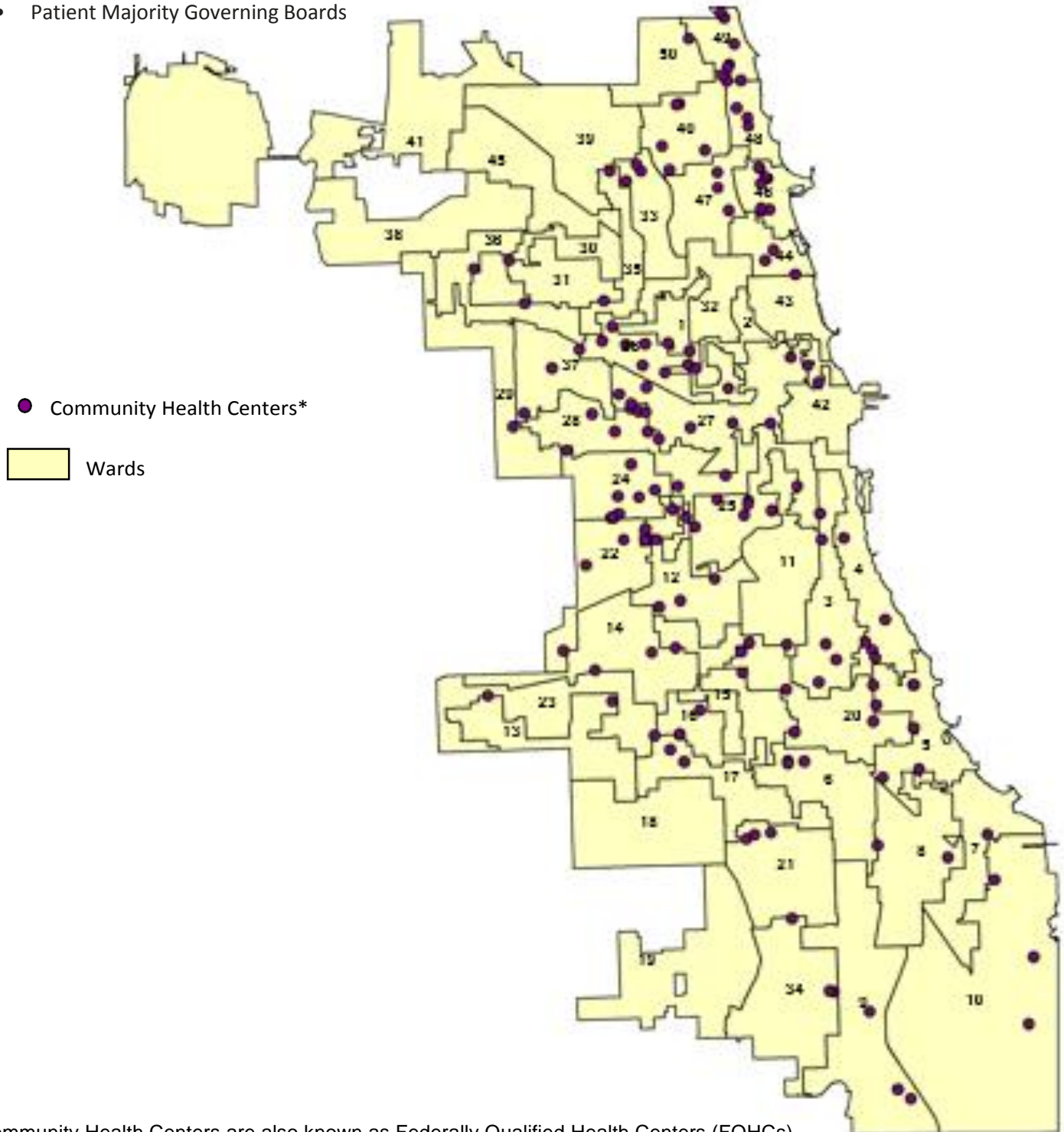
CHCs receive funding from the federal government that allows them to charge each patient on a sliding scale fee based on the patient's income and ability to pay. **No patient will be turned away because of inability to pay.**

This version was released on 03/18/2020. It may be updated with new guidance. Please visit www.chicago.gov/coronavirus to find the latest version.



Essential Features of Community Health Centers

- Located in Areas of High Need
- Comprehensive Set of Services
- Open to Everyone
- Patient Majority Governing Boards



*Community Health Centers are also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
Information on health centers including addresses can be found at findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov
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