

# Ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency & Other Policy Changes: What Clinicians Need to Know

Policy changes related to expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency & certain federal legislation/funding\*

Updated May 1, 2023

	Continuing	Ending <i>(when PHE ends May 11, 2023, unless otherwise noted)</i>	TBD
<b>Vaccines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Part B coverage w/o cost-sharing</li> <li>In-network private insurance*** coverage w/o cost-sharing</li> <li>Uninsured access w/o cost-sharing at health centers and pharmacies through new HHS Bridge Access program</li> <li><i>Through 9/30/24:</i> Mandatory Medicaid coverage w/o cost-sharing</li> <li><i>Through 12/1/24:</i> COVID-19 vaccine administration flexibilities for pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians via PREP Act liability immunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage for all U.S. residents regardless of insurance status w/o cost-sharing</li> <li><i>On 9/30/24:</i> Mandatory Medicaid coverage w/o cost-sharing</li> <li>COVID-19 vaccine administration flexibilities for nontraditional providers (recently retired providers and students) and across-state-lines licensed providers and pharmacists and pharmacy interns via PREP Act liability immunity</li> <li><i>On 12/1/24:</i> COVID-19 vaccine administration flexibilities for pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians via PREP Act liability immunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States could choose to continue Medicaid coverage of vaccines w/o cost-sharing after 9/30/24</li> </ul>
<b>Treatments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability of oral antivirals purchased by the U.S. government, including through the Test to Treat program, without cost-sharing</li> <li>Medicare Part B coverage of COVID-19 EUA therapeutics without cost-sharing</li> <li>Private insurance*** coverage with cost-sharing as applicable</li> <li><i>Through 9/30/24:</i> Mandatory Medicaid coverage w/o cost-sharing</li> <li>Test to Treat prescription flexibility for pharmacists and other providers via PREP Act liability immunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Part D coverage of COVID-19 EUA therapeutics without cost-sharing</li> <li>Medicaid coverage of therapeutics for uninsured**</li> <li><i>On 9/30/24:</i> Mandatory Medicaid coverage w/o cost-sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare coverage of COVID-19 therapeutics if FDA ends EUA (starting in year following)</li> <li>States could choose to continue Medicaid coverage of treatments w/o cost-sharing after 9/30/24</li> </ul>
<b>Tests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare coverage of lab tests ordered by a provider</li> <li><i>Through 9/30/24:</i> Mandatory Medicaid coverage of OTC and lab tests w/o cost-sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare coverage of OTC tests w/o cost-sharing</li> <li>Private insurance*** coverage of OTC and lab tests w/o cost-sharing</li> <li>Medicaid coverage of testing for uninsured**</li> <li><i>On 9/30/24:</i> Mandatory Medicaid coverage of OTC and lab tests w/o cost-sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible future distribution of OTC COVID-19 tests from the Strategic National Stockpile via USPS, states, etc.</li> <li>CDC's Increasing Community Access to Testing program could continue if funded</li> <li>States could choose to continue Medicaid coverage of tests after 9/30/24</li> </ul>
<b>Telehealth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current private insurance and Medicaid telehealth policies, which are not tied to the PHE</li> <li><i>Through 12/31/24:</i> Medicare policies allowing audio-only and new-patient telehealth appointments, among other flexibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>On 12/31/24:</i> Medicare policies allowing audio-only and new-patient telehealth appointments, among other flexibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States could choose to change telehealth policies for private insurance and Medicaid</li> </ul>
<b>Infection Prevention/PPE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and institutional policies are unaffected by national emergencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certain state-specific Medicaid programs/authorities that helped provide PPE could end</li> </ul>	
<b>Medicaid</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous enrollment/coverage requirement (ended 4/1/23)</li> <li>Numerous state-specific programs/authorities</li> </ul>	

\*Billing/coding, reporting changes omitted for concision

\*\*In states that opted in during the public health emergency

\*\*\*ACA-compliant private insurance – excludes Association Health Plans and short-term plans

## References/Resources

[Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap](#)

HHS resource on the expected end of the federal public health emergency declaration and its impact on public policies and services.

[Waivers, Flexibilities and the Transition Forward From the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

CMS fact sheet detailing what people with Medicare and Medicaid coverage should expect with the planned end of the PHE for COVID-19 on May 11, including vaccines, testing and treatments.

[Fact Sheet: HHS Announces Intent to Amend the Declaration Under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19](#)

Information from HHS about policies covering certain providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Fact Sheet: HHS Announces 'HHS Bridge Access Program For COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments' to Maintain Access to COVID-19 Care for the Uninsured](#)

The new public-private partnership program is designed to help maintain uninsured individuals' access to COVID-19 care at their local pharmacies, through existing public health infrastructure, and at their local health centers.

[IDSA Policy Overview: Unwinding of the Public Health Emergency](#)

Summary from IDSA including details about billing, coding, documentation and other payment policies.