EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS
CHAMPIONS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The Pandemic Is Over, But COVID-19 Is Not

On May 11th, 2023, the United States declared an end to the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). Read below for more information about what this could mean for you and your family.

What is the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency?

A Public Health Emergency (PHE) is an announcement made by the United States Government that declares a disease or disorder a public threat. The COVID-19 PHE allowed money to be set aside to fund urgent pandemic responses, like free vaccines and testing.

What Does The End Of The PHE Mean For Me?

The end of the Public Health Emergency has affected Americans in both positive and negative ways. It's important to keep track of these changes so you can make necessary adjustments. Read below to find out how you might be affected by the end of the PHE:

If you are currently enrolled in Medicaid, renew your benefit.

Many people will have to re-enroll in Medicaid now that the PHE has ended. To stay in contact with the Department of Health and Human Services and Medicaid officials, it is important to verify that your mailing address is correct, check your/your child(ren)'s eligibility, and watch the mail for renewal information. You can go online to update your address or determine your child's eligibility at www.abe.illinois.com or call 1-800-843-6154. If you are no longer eligible for Medicaid, go to www.getcoveredillinois.gov to explore low-cost health insurance options.

Vaccines remain available despite the end of the Public Health Emergency.

For now, access to COVID-19 vaccines are not affected. The U.S. government is supplying free COVID-19 vaccines for all adults and children, regardless of immigration status.

COVID-19 at-home tests might not be covered by insurance.

Insurance providers are no longer required to cover costs or provide free COVID-19 tests. Refer to the Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program to find out which pharmacies still provide free COVID-19 tests. ICATT continues to provide no cost COVID-19 testing for people without health insurance with symptoms related to COVID-19 or who were exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Certain COVID-19 treatments continue to be readily available for all who need it.

Testing and medications to prevent severe COVID-19, like Paxlovid, remain available while supplies last. After that, the price will be determined by the medication manufacturer and your health insurance coverage. Check with your health care provider if you need early treatment to prevent severe COVID-19.

Resources

Changes to COVID-19 Measures: https://bit.ly/465udmD

End of Federal COVID-19 PHE Declaration: https://bit.ly/45M01NO

Preserving Medicaid and CHIP Coverage: https://bit.ly/3Lid2X4