

COVID-19 Update: End of Public Health Emergency
Employee email / intranet article

Trioak Food Health Insurance Members:

Subject: Important COVID-19 Update: End of Public Health Emergency

Recently the Biden administration announced it intends to end the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on May 11, 2023.

During the COVID-19 PHE, Wellmark enhanced your benefit coverage to ensure you had access to COVID-related services. With the end of PHE, you see the below changes to your benefits.

If you have questions about these changes, please contact the Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield customer service number on the back of your ID card.

| Benefit | Update | What this means for you |
|--|---|--|
| COVID-19 testing and testing-related services | Cost-share waiver stops the day after the end of PHE (5/12/23) | Traditional Plans – will pay the office visit copay, and if the testing is billed through a facility, the test could be applied towards your deductible. H.S.A. Plans – The full cost of the office visit and testing will apply towards your deductible. |
| Over-the-counter COVID-19 tests | Coverage stops the day after the end of PHE (5/12/23) | You'll be responsible for paying out-of-pocket costs for over-the-counter tests. |
| COVID-19 vaccines | COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be covered under your benefits plan. | There will be zero cost to you for COVID-19 vaccines. |

The most up-to-date information

Your health is important to us. We will continue to keep close watch on PHE updates using the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), the [CDC](#), [Iowa Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH).