



COVID-19 and End of Public Health Emergency Update

The federal government confirmed May 11, 2023, as the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). UnitedHealthcare has been planning for this change and reviewing recent guidance from the government agencies on how the end of the PHE affects COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatments.

UnitedHealthcare standard approach to coverage

UnitedHealthcare standard approach for COVID-19 vaccines, testing, treatment, and telehealth for fully insured is as follows:

COVID-19 vaccines — Cover ACIP recommended and CDC adopted COVID-19 vaccine and booster serum and administration as part of preventive benefits at zero-dollar cost share, when in network.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) tests — No medical or pharmacy coverage of OTC COVID-19 tests for dates of service starting after May 11, 2023 unless mandated by state regulatory requirements. Members may use their account plans, such as Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) to purchase OTC tests.

Surveillance testing — No coverage of in- or out-of-network surveillance testing.

COVID-19 lab-based testing — Coverage of FDA approved or authorized physician or health care provider (e.g., pharmacist, nurse, or doctor) ordered lab COVID-19 tests in accordance with the member's standard medical plan benefit.

COVID-19 treatment — Coverage for FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 treatments, including Paxlovid and molnupiravir (Lagevrio), in accordance with a member's standard plan benefits.

Telehealth — Coverage for telehealth visits in accordance with the member's standard medical plan benefit for in & out of network (subject to cost share). Includes medical and behavioral telehealth services.

Virtual Visits — Coverage for virtual visits in accordance with the member's standard medical plan benefit, including medical and behavioral.

Note: State guidance may result in variance from UnitedHealthcare coverage.

If you want to discuss this further, please contact Phillip Edwards at phillip_i_edwards@uhc.com as soon as possible.

If you have questions on coverage, taxes, mandates, or mental health parity, please consult with your counsel or tax advisor.