

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding Partner/Provider Webinar

Hosted by: Oregon Department of Human Services
(ODHS) & Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

December 13, 2022



Zoom Webinar Tips

All attendees:



Use the Q&A function to submit your questions

- We will spend the last 10 minutes of the webinar answering questions
- We will follow up on any questions we are not able to address
- If you would prefer to ask your question verbally, please ask to be unmuted in the Q&A box



This webinar is being recorded

- It will be shared on our COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Unwinding webpage following the conclusion of the presentation
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Language & Disability Access

- For real-time interpretation from English to Spanish, please click on the “interpretation” button at the bottom of your screen to select your preferred language
 - For live captioning, please click on the “cc” button located at the bottom of your screen
 - For real time interpretation to ASL, please see the pinned video on your screen
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Agenda

COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) ending timeline and updates

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and food benefit program changes when the PHE ends

Questions

Resources for Community Partners

COVID-19 Federal PHE Timeline and Updates

The Goal: Preserve Benefits

1

Ensure all people and families eligible for benefits offered through the ONE system receive and continue to receive services in a timely manner without interruption

2

Give those no longer eligible for benefits clear direction and coordination of additional resources

3

Give those who assist people receiving benefits clear information about how they can help



Throughout the pandemic, Oregonians have maintained Oregon Health Plan (OHP), long-term services and supports, additional food supports and other benefits.

Under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act:

People of Oregon have continuous coverage for Medicaid/CHIP (OHP) and other medical benefits, long-term services and supports, and more food benefits for the duration of the federal public health emergency (PHE).



When the PHE ends, **Oregon will have 14 months to redetermine eligibility** for all 1.4 million households who have received continuous medical benefits and long-term services and supports during the PHE.

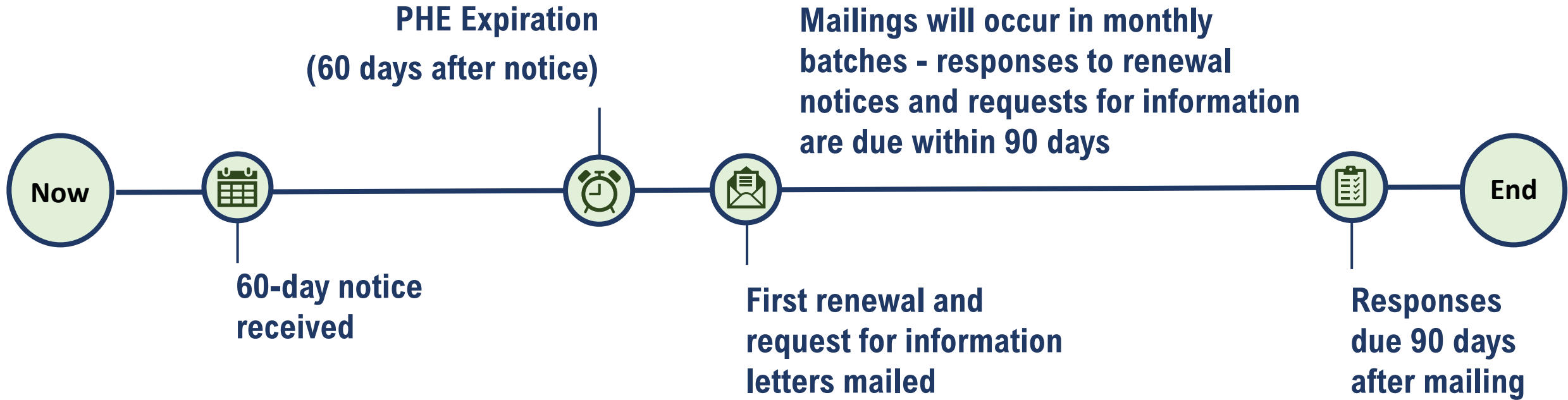


Oregon must **initiate the medical redetermination process** for each person **within 10 months** to complete the entire process on time.



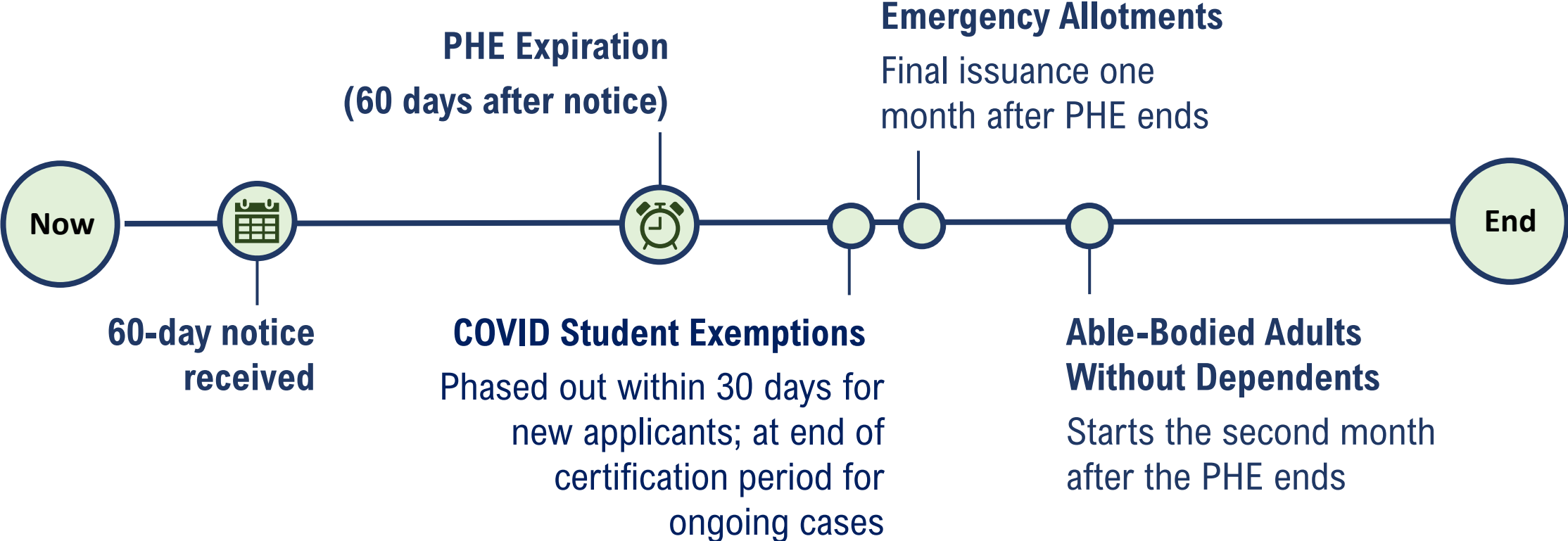
PHE programs and policies for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will end or phase-out.

Medical redeterminations timeline



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Changes When the PHE Ends

SNAP timeline



SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA) Background

- The federal government has approved Oregon to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments every month since March 2020.
- Every month, ODHS must request federal approval to issue Emergency Allotments.
- ODHS will continue to apply for EA benefits in alignment with the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

EA food benefits approved through January

- ODHS will issue EA benefits in December and January.
- December EA benefits will be issued to current SNAP households on Dec. 13 and on Dec. 30 or Jan. 4, 2023 for households who did not receive benefits in the first monthly issuance.
- In December, approximately 426,000 SNAP households will receive approximately \$70 million in extra food benefits in addition to their regular SNAP benefits.

Communications Strategy

Objective: Formally announce that SNAP Emergency Allotments are ending, prepare and notify impacted individuals and families and connect them with alternative resources and supports.

Goals

1. Prepare staff, partners and Oregonians for the end of SNAP Emergency Allotments.
2. Create a “plug and play” communications plan and toolkit that can be engaged on short notice.
3. Collaborate with partners to quickly achieve a wide reach of information.
4. Limit the negative impact this will have on families and individuals by:
 - a. Giving them as much time as possible to prepare for the change
 - b. Sharing helpful resources to fill the gap created

Materials

- Mailer for SNAP households
- Press release
- OHA and ODHS webpages
- ONE portal, EBT Edge banners
- Talking points for staff and partners
- Social media graphics and language
- Flyer for digital and print use
- FAQ for partners and staff

Important Change to SNAP Benefits

Starting:
DATE

Background

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, SNAP households have been receiving two payments every month from the SNAP program. The first payment is the regular SNAP benefit, and the second payment is the Emergency Allotment related to the COVID-19 emergency.

What is changing?

The COVID-19 emergency period is ending. Starting in June, the federal funding for additional SNAP benefits is going away. This means May will be the last month that Oregonians will receive the Emergency Allotment payment. Oregonians will continue to receive their regular SNAP allotment. That is not impacted by this change.

Additional Information

Emergency allotment amounts have been different based on the number of people in the household, but most households will have a significant decrease in SNAP when they no longer receive the Emergency Allotments. Oregonians with an Applicant Portal account can find the specific amount of SNAP benefits they will continue to receive on their My Dashboard. Steps to view this amount in the Applicant Portal are located on the back of this page.

Oregonians can also check their EBT Edge account at www.EBTedge.com to review their regular benefit amount. This is the amount received between the 1st and the 9th of the month listed in the transaction history section.

Because this is a federal decision, so the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will not be able to supplement the decrease in benefits. We encourage households to budget accordingly and reach out to their local resources.

Regular SNAP

No changes to this payment. SNAP household will continue to see this payment ongoing.

Date Available Between the 1st and 9th of the month

Emergency Allotment

This allotment will end in May. In June, this benefit will be removed and cause a decrease in benefits.

Date Available Usually paid on the 11th or 12th of the month

If you have questions about your benefits, you can call ONE Customer Service at 1-800-699-9075 (711 TTY) or visit your local office. To find the nearest office, please visit one.oregon.gov/General/LocateAnOffice

Social Media Cards

SNAP emergency food benefits are ending.

If you can't afford the food you need, you have options.



Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program

Call the Aging and Disability Resource Connection at **1-855-673-2372**, call **2-1-1**, visit **oregonfoodfinder.org** or connect with your local Community Action Agency at **caporegon.org** for information about supports in your community.

Timeline: After Denial from Food and Nutrition Service

Day of Denial

- Submit request and recipient list for mailed notice
- Publish press release, share to social, provide quotes to English and Spanish media
- Provide talking points to SSP, APD, and OEP staff
- Provide talking points and social posts to partners

Within 2 Days

- Post message to ONE, ODHS website, and PHE OHA website
- Send digital flyer to district offices, partners, and AAAs to print on-site
- Submit request to mail hard copy flyers (as needed)

Within First Week

- Meet with partners that can both notify and support Oregonians
- Notify Hearings, Child Nutrition Services and WIC
- Co-host Facebook Live and Twitter AMA with partners
- Begin social media posts

SNAP Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Requirements

- Individuals at least 18 but not yet 50 and have no minor children in their SNAP filing group

Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD)

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this requirement has been suspended in Oregon since April 2020.
- The implementation of ABAWD program work requirements will begin 2 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration.
 - The application of ABAWD program work requirements is tentatively for June 1, 2023. As the PHE declaration could be extended again, the June date is tentative.
- Affected individuals will receive a notice months before the work requirements begin to let them know
 - Dates of upcoming change
 - How to continue to access food benefits

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and Summer P-EBT

P-EBT and Summer P-EBT Background

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) allows states to distribute food dollars to families with children whose access to adequate and quality food in free or reduced-price meal school or childcare settings may have been impacted by COVID-19.
- Summer P-EBT is a related federal program that allows states to distribute food dollars for the summer months when school is not in session.
- P-EBT and Summer P-EBT programs will end when the COVID-19 PHE ends.
- Oregon will not be able to apply for new P-EBT and Summer P-EBT issuances after the PHE ends.

Summer P-EBT

- Oregon is approved to issue retroactive P-EBT for Summer 2022 for students and children meeting the following criteria:
 - Students:
 - Determined eligible for free or reduce price meals at their school, or
 - Attending a school which was designated as Community Eligibility Provision.
 - Children:
 - Received SNAP benefits (greater than \$0) at any time between June 1 – August 31, 2022, and
 - Under the age of 6

Summer P-EBT Continued

- Households eligible for Summer P-EBT will receive a one-time food benefit of \$391 for each child who meets the eligibility criteria for at least one month during June-August 2022.
- Distribution of Summer P-EBT benefits is currently scheduled to begin in early 2023.
- Important things to note about P-EBT:
 - P-EBT is not SNAP. P-EBT is separate from SNAP and Emergency Allotments that are also being issued due to the impact of COVID-19.
 - P-EBT benefits are not considered in a public charge test and do not impact immigration status.

Summer P-EBT Communications Strategy

- Send notice to eligible families
- Update information to the PEBT.Oregon.Gov website
- Share information with schools and school districts on where they can direct questions for families
- Post to English and Spanish ODHS Facebook pages and social media
- Publish a media press release

SNAP and Students of Higher Education

- **Students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education are not eligible for SNAP unless they meet at least one exemption.**

SNAP temporary exemptions for students of higher education

- During COVID, two temporary exemptions were added to allow more students to be eligible for SNAP. These are students who:
 - Are **eligible** to participate in state or federally financed work study during the regular school year.
 - Have an **Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0** in the current academic year
- After the PHE is ended, these two temporary exemptions will no longer be used based on the application type received:
 - 30 days after PHE is ended for new cases
 - By end of month after PHE is ended for ongoing cases
 - Exemptions may be retained until the next case renewal

Q&A Session

Use the Q&A function to submit your questions

If you would prefer to ask your question verbally,
please ask to be unmuted in the Q&A box



Any questions that we are not able to answer live will be responded to in writing and posted to <http://www.oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners>. Q&A from the previous webinars are now available on the website.

Call to Action for Partners

You can help by reminding people to:



Keep their mailing address, phone number, and email address current to ensure they receive vital information about their benefits.



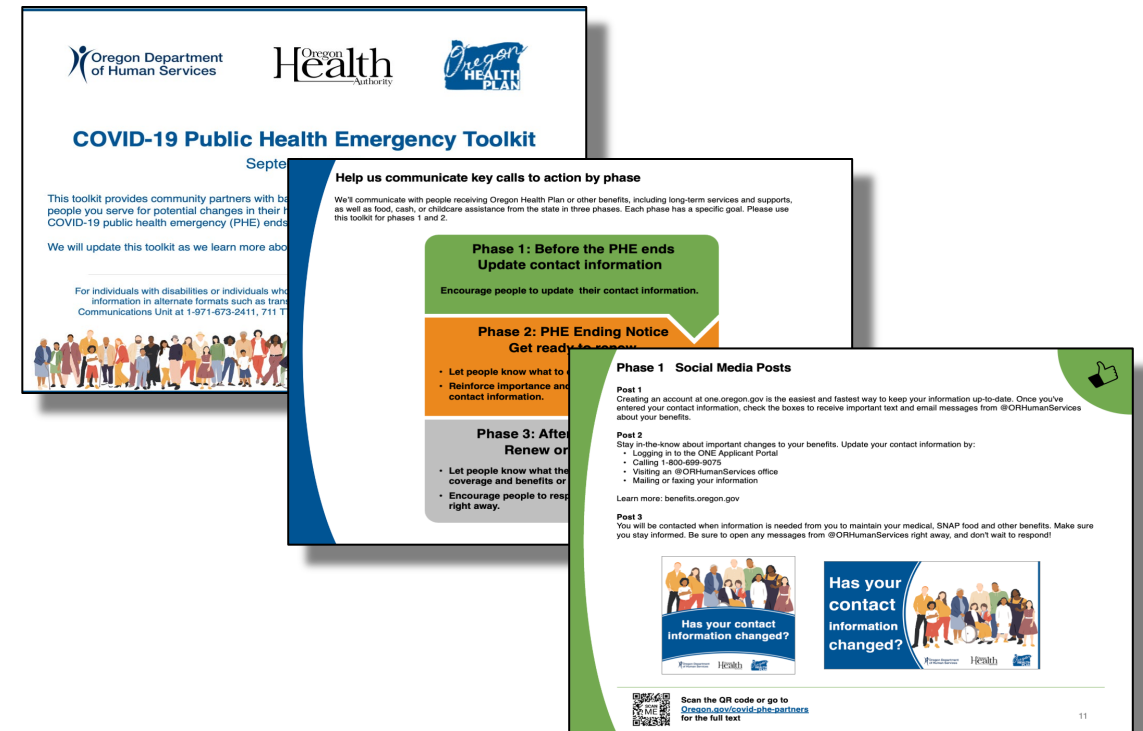
Watch for letters about their benefits from the state.



Provide the information the state needs to help them continue to receive benefits or connect with other resources when they don't qualify or see a reduction in benefits.

COVID-19 PHE Partner Toolkit

- The **End of the COVID-19 PHE Partner Toolkit** for phases 1 and 2 is now available for you to access at www.oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners.
- **Available in 13 languages:** Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Chuukese, English, Hmong, Korean, Marshallese, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.



Use Phase 1 tools to encourage people receiving benefits to update their contact information.

Staying connected



Share your feedback – [take the PHE Webinar survey](#)

Click on the link to take the survey! Or scan the QR code.



Visit www.oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners for COVID-19 PHE information, previous PHE webinar recordings and presentations, and the partner toolkit.



Email MICHAEL.J.MCDAID@dhsosha.state.or.us with questions or to share feedback.

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Thank you for attending!

