

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

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

October 18, 2022



# Zoom Webinar Tips

All attendees:



**Please remain muted and off camera for the duration of the webinar**

- **Zoom:** Use the microphone icon to mute, use the camera icon to turn your camera off
- **Phone:** Use \*6 to mute/unmute if double muted



**Use the chat 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



**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 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 pin the video on your screen
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# Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) Ending  
Timeline and Updates

Courtesy Notice Updates

Effects on ODHS Programs

Questions

# **COVID-19 Federal PHE Timeline and Updates**

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

# 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



## What We Know Now

-  — States will be given 60 days advance notice prior to the end of the PHE, confirming that the expiration will occur on that date.
-  — Oregon will be required to redetermine all individuals on Oregon Health Plan in the 14 months after the PHE ends.
-  — HHS reviews the PHE declaration every 90-days and can opt to renew it. The current PHE declaration ends on January 11, 2023.



# Courtesy Notice Updates

# Contact Information Courtesy Notice

**Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Medicare Savings Program (MSP) members will receive a courtesy notice this Fall asking them to make sure their contact information is correct and provides options for them to make the updates.**

- Mailings from September 26 through the end of October.
- The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Recipient Letter was sent to those who are only receiving MSP benefit
- The OHP Member Letter is being sent to all other medical cases, including cases where individuals are receiving both OHP and MSP benefits
- Households should only receive one letter, addressed to the head of household listed on the case
- Sample letters in multiple languages are available on [Oregon.gov/OR-benefit-changes](https://www.oregon.gov/OR-benefit-changes)

## **Returned Mail**

- Roughly 15,000 returned letters have been received and scanned to date
- First data file will be delivered to Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) November 1 to allow them to submit address changes
- Continue to verify contact information when individuals contact the agency

**How the end of the COVID-19 PHE will affect ODHS medical, long-term services and supports, and food benefit programs**

# ODHS Program Summary

## **Please keep in mind:**

- The programs in scope for today's presentation are medical, long-term services and supports and food benefit programs
- Plans are being finalized for how changes will be made
- Programs will provide more details through their regular communications methods when we get closer to the end date
- Many other ODHS programs also will experience changes that aren't covered here

# Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

## Program description:

Medicaid LTSS provides long-term care services for eligible individuals with physical, mental health, and intellectual or developmental disabilities.

## What will change:

- Anyone receiving Medicaid LTSS who no longer qualifies for Medicaid based on their financial eligibility **will lose both medical and LTSS benefits**, which may include their housing if they are living in a long-term care facility or adult foster home.
- Anyone whose eligibility for Medicaid is based on meeting LTSS criteria and who no longer meets that criteria will lose all Medicaid coverage.
- There are no equivalent benefits, state bridge program, or other payer source available for long-term services and supports.
- People may have reductions to LTSS benefits based on assessed needs, but their medical coverage will continue.

# Medicare Savings Program (MSP)

## **Program description:**

MSP is a program that helps eligible Medicare recipients who have income and resources below a certain limit pay for their Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) premiums. It might also pay their Part A and Part B deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.

## **What will change:**

- Anyone receiving assistance with MSP who no longer qualifies based on their financial eligibility will be responsible for their Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. They may choose to privately purchase Medicare Supplemental Insurance or enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

# Oregon Health Plan (OHP)

## **Program description:**

OHP is a state and federally funded program which provides Medicaid medical coverage to people in Oregon with low incomes.

## **What will change:**

- Adults receiving OHP who no longer financially qualify will lose their medical benefits.
- Many adults receiving OHP who also have Medicare may lose their Medicaid benefits. Individuals may need to pay a penalty to Medicare if they did not enroll in Medicare when first eligible. They may also have a waiting period for coverage.
- Individuals receiving Medicare may be eligible for a Medicare Savings Program (MSP) if they qualify.
- Self-attestation for disability will expire. Individuals who don't meet the Social Security Administration's definition of disabled may lose OHP eligibility if their benefits require a disability determination.

# SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA)

## Program description:

Emergency Allotments (EA) are food benefits given to SNAP households in addition to their regular SNAP allotment. Oregon must request permission from the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to issue EA payments each month. The PHE declaration must be in place as a condition for approval.

## What will change:

- When the COVID-19 PHE ends, people will continue to receive their regular SNAP benefits between the 1st and 9th day of every month
- The extra EA food benefits will end.
- After the PHE ends, Oregon can issue one more month of EA benefits
- ODHS will have less than 1.5 months to notify SNAP households before SNAP EA ends



# Pandemic EBT and Summer Pandemic EBT

## **Program description:**

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a program that allows states to distribute food dollars to families with children whose access to adequate and quality food 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.

## **What will change:**

- Oregon will not be able to apply for P-EBT or Summer P-EBT to provide food benefits to families with children whose access to adequate and quality food may have been impacted by COVID-19 and access to school meals.

# SNAP Time Limits for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

## Program description:

SNAP recipients who are at least 18 but not yet 50 and have no children under 18 on their SNAP case are considered to have an ABAWD status.

- The federal government has work requirements for all SNAP recipients with ABAWD status.
- To receive SNAP benefits for more than three (3) months, SNAP recipients with ABAWD status must meet federal work requirements, have an approved exemption, or live in an exempt Oregon county or Tribal Reservation.

## What will change:

- Oregon is required to reinstate ABAWD time limits two months after the PHE ends.
- If the PHE ends in January 2023, time limits could begin again as early as March 1, 2023
- Oregon Employment Department will provide services to people with ABAWD status who are not exempt or doing work activities on their own

# SNAP Temporary Exemptions for Students of Higher Education

## Program description:

In general, students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education (e.g., college, university, trade/technical school) are not eligible for SNAP unless they meet certain exemptions. During COVID, two temporary exemptions were added to allow more students to be eligible for SNAP:

- Those who are eligible to participate in state or federally financed work study
- Those with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 0 in the current academic year

## What will change:

- Oregon is required to stop using these temporary exemptions 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

# Supports are being put in place to assist benefit recipients through transitions

## **We are preparing now by:**

- Phasing medical renewals by population to allow more time for outreach and longer coverage for those most at risk of losing OHP coverage
- Creating the Bridge Health Care Program, a new option for people with income below 200% FPL who lose OHP during renewals
- Strengthening connections with the Marketplace team for people transitioning from OHP to commercial market
- Equipping our resource and referral networks like the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) Medicare certified counselors to support people
- Inviting partners to help us raise awareness and support people
- Communicating directly with benefit recipients in many ways

# 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




## COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Toolkit

September 2022

This toolkit provides community partners with background information and resources to prepare the people you serve for potential changes in their health coverage and other benefits when the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) ends.

We will update this toolkit as we learn more about when the PHE may end.

For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or [COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhs.oha.state.or.us](mailto:COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhs.oha.state.or.us).



### Phase

benefits, including long-term services and supports, phases. Each phase has a specific goal. Please use

### PHE ends information

contact information.

### Renewal Notice

renew

### and how to prepare.


frequency of updating

### PHE ends position

to do to maintain other services.

- Encourage people to respond to renewal notices right away.


3






to keep your information up-to-date. Once you've sent text and email messages from @ORHumanServices

Your contact information by:


in your medical, SNAP food and other benefits. Make sure Services right away, and don't wait to respond!



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Scan the QR code or go to [Oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners](https://Oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners) for the full text




### Keep your contact information current to help keep your benefits.

#### contact information


Learn more ways to update your contact information.

Scan the QR code or visit [oregon.gov/covidphe](https://oregon.gov/covidphe)




SCAN ME

oregon.gov.



language other than English, OHA can provide print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 LanguageAccess@dhs.oha.state.or.us.

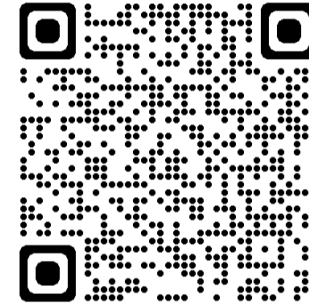
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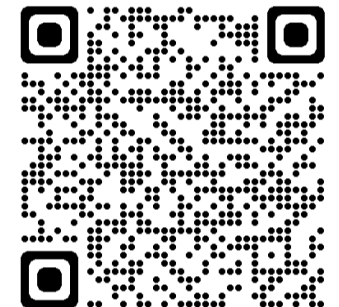
Scan the QR code or go to [Oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners](https://Oregon.gov/covid-phe-partners) for the full text

# Staying connected

November



December



## Upcoming webinar dates 10AM PST:

- [November 15](#)
- [December 13](#)

Click on the links to register! Or scan the QR code.



Visit [www.oregon.gov/covidphe](http://www.oregon.gov/covidphe) for COVID-19 PHE information.



Email [COVID.19@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:COVID.19@dhsosha.state.or.us) with questions or to share feedback.

# Questions

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Any questions that we are not able to answer live will be responded to in writing and posted to <http://www.oregon.gov/covidphe>. Q&A from the September webinar are now available on the website.

