



DSHS Southeast Texas

Public Health Region 6/5 S Serving You

Preparing for the End of the COVID Public Health Emergency on May 11

On May 11, [the federal “Public Health Emergency” designation for COVID-19 will end](#). While this is an exciting time to think of how we can move from pandemic response to improving other aspects of our health and healthcare system, it also has some funding and insurance coverage effects for us right away.

1st Effect: Continuous Medicaid coverage ends on March 31.

What that means: Texas will begin checking those who are currently using Medicaid to see who is still eligible to receive benefits, which they had not been doing since the beginning of the Public Health Emergency. This means that some people who have been using Medicaid will no longer be able to do so after the review.

What you should do: Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will reach out to you when it's time to renew your coverage if you are still eligible. [Make sure your information is up to date online](#). Completing your renewal now will make sure you do not lose coverage later. If you are no longer eligible, you will no longer be covered by Medicaid and should look for other insurance options. [Use this HHSC toolkit](#) to help others understand how to take action to prepare for the end of continuous Medicaid coverage.

2nd Effect: Once the government stockpile runs out, vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 will no longer be free of charge. Over the counter and lab COVID-19 testing will no longer be free for those privately insured, and the federal government will no longer mail free tests through the postal service.

What that means: [If you have private insurance or Medicaid/Medicare coverage](#), your updated COVID vaccines and any treatment will be covered. However, if you do not fit into either of those categories, once the government stockpile runs out you [could be charged up to \\$130 for a vaccine](#). For testing, depending on your insurance provider, you may have to pay individually for each test.

What you should do: Get your updated COVID vaccine as soon as possible to avoid any charges in the future. If you would like, [stock up on antigen tests](#) near the May deadline while they are still covered by insurance. Remember that they do expire, so the closer to the end date the better. Note that [expiration dates of some antigen tests have been extended](#).

These are two major changes due to the ending of the Public Health Emergency. If you're interested in reading more details about the transition, check out this web page by the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#). Also, feel free to contact DSHS for more information about COVID-19 and how we are moving beyond.



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