**Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program --- COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition**

On January 30, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is ending the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) on May 11, 2023.

Benefits Administration Letter (BAL) 23-201 provides guidance pertaining to the FEHB Program.

FEHB plans must continue to cover benefits for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment for COVID-19 even after the expiration of the PHE as follows:

1. Plans must continue to cover laboratory and over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic tests including associated items and services for furnishing those tests. Plans may impose, but are **encouraged** to waive, cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) and medical management (including prior authorization) for COVID-19 diagnostic tests and associated items and services furnished after the end of the PHE.
2. Plans are encouraged to provide notice to covered individuals about changes to key information about their COVID-19 benefits (*e.g.*, date when the Carrier would begin to impose cost-sharing requirements).
3. Plans must continue to cover, without cost-sharing, COVID-19 vaccines (including their administration), and any other qualifying coronavirus preventive services intended to prevent or mitigate COVID-19 on an in-network basis.

Questions on your specific plan’s coverage and reimbursement, should be directed to your health plan at the number on the back of your ID card.

**Resources:**

[Benefits Administration Letter 23-201](https://www.opm.gov/retirement-center/publications-forms/benefits-administration-letters/)

[HHS COVID-19 PHE Roadmap Fact Sheet](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-covid-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html)