

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

Wisconsin serving you

Providing the Latest Health Care Benefit Information to ForwardHealth Members



You Will Keep Your Health Care Benefits During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Making sure the people of Wisconsin can get health care when they need it is always important. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and federal rules, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has temporarily changed program rules to help protect the health and safety of members of BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid, and participants in our long-term care programs.

One of these changes is that if you were eligible for health care benefits on or after March 18, 2020, you will keep them until at least the end of the month in which the federal public health emergency for COVID-19 ends.

This means that even if you had changes that would normally have made you lose your health care benefits on or after March 18, 2020, you will keep your benefits during the federal public health emergency. Until the end of the federal public health emergency, you will only lose

The Key Message

You will keep your health care benefits during the COVID-19 federal public health emergency.

By “health care benefits,” we mean:

- BadgerCare Plus
- Supplemental Security Income-Related Medicaid
- Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP)
- Family Planning Only Services
- Institutional Medicaid
- Waiver Medicaid

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 2019 Wisconsin Act 185 § 105(1)(d).

your health care benefits if you move out of Wisconsin or ask to end your health care benefits.

How does this affect me?

You may have reported changes that would have normally reduced or ended your health care benefits, such as a new source of income that put you over the program's income limit. While we recorded these changes, they will not affect your benefits for the rest of the federal public health emergency.

Also, you do not have to renew your benefits until after the federal public health emergency. In some cases, we can renew your benefits with the information we already have on file. For most members, we will send you a letter 45 days before you need to renew your benefits.

After the federal public health emergency ends, we will send you a letter if there are going to be any changes to your health care benefits. We will send a letter before any changes happen.

What do I need to do?

You still need to report changes to your agency. Your agency has sent you letters with the types of changes that you need to report. If you cannot find these letters, you can also call and ask your agency what you have to report. You can find your agency's phone number in the Attachment of this Update.

In some cases, changes may mean you can get more benefits or that you will pay less out of pocket.

If you receive long-term care services **and** you pay a monthly cost share to remain eligible for those services, your monthly cost share could increase or decrease depending on your financial changes. You may have a monthly cost share if you are a member or participant in Family Care, Family Care Partnership, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), IRIS, or the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program.

If you receive long-term care services **and** you pay a monthly patient liability payment to remain eligible for those services, your monthly patient liability could increase or decrease depending on your financial changes. You may have a monthly patient liability if you are living in an institution (for example, a nursing home).

REMINDER

Please continue to report changes to your agency.

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If you have questions about your eligibility or want to stop getting your health care benefits, please call your agency.

How long will the public health emergency last?

The United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning January. While the federal public health emergency period is currently set to expire on July 20, 2021, it can be extended. Based on what the federal government has said, we expect that the public health emergency will last at least until December 31, 2021. We expect to keep all members enrolled until at least the end of 2021.

What will happen when the public health emergency ends?

Your benefits might change or end when the federal public health emergency is over. We will send you a letter to let you know before those changes happen.

What if I purchased health care through the Marketplace?

You may have purchased a qualified health plan through the Marketplace if you thought you would lose your health care. Because you will keep these benefits during the federal public health emergency, you may have benefits through both BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid and the Marketplace.

If this is the case, and you received an advance premium tax credit, you should contact the Marketplace and let them know which Medicaid program you are enrolled in. Normally, you cannot qualify for advance premium tax credits through the Marketplace if you have Medicaid. When the Marketplace finds that someone got advance premium tax credits when they had Medicaid, they normally ask them to pay them back.

The Internal Revenue Service has said that most people who have benefits through both BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid and the Marketplace will not have to pay back their advance premium tax credits. For more information on advance premium tax credits, refer to the Questions and Answers on the Premium Tax Credit page on the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/individuals-and-families/questions-and-answers-on-the-premium-tax-credit.

For more information about the Marketplace, go to www.healthcare.gov.

RESOURCES

These websites have helpful information about these topics:

- Wisconsin COVID-19 outbreak: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm
- Program updates related to COVID-19: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth.htm
- Advance premium tax credits: www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/individuals-and-families/questions-and-answers-on-the-premium-tax-credit
- The Marketplace: www.healthcare.gov

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Where can I get more information about COVID-19?

For the latest information about the COVID-19 outbreak in Wisconsin, visit the COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease) page on the Department of Health Services website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm.

For more information about program updates related to COVID-19, visit the COVID-19: ForwardHealth Program Updates for You and Your Family page on the Department of Health Services website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth.htm.

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English: For help to translate or understand this, please call **800-362-3002** (TTY).

Spanish: Si necesita ayuda para traducir o entender este texto, por favor llame al teléfono **800-362-3002** (TTY).

Russian: Если вам не всё понятно в этом документе, позвоните по телефону **800-362-3002** (TTY).

Hmong: Yog xav tau kev pab txhais cov ntaub ntauv no kom koj totaub, hu rau **800-362-3002** (TTY).

Laotian: ພ້ອມຊ່ວຍໃນການແປ ຫລື ເຂົ້າໃຈເນື້ອຫາໃນນີ້, ກະລຸນາໂທອະສັບຫາ **800-362-3002** (TTY).

Attachment

Income Maintenance Agency and Tribal Agency Phone Numbers

Please call your income maintenance or tribal agency to report changes. You may also call if you have questions about your eligibility or want to stop getting your health care benefits. Phone numbers are listed in the table below.

| Income Maintenance or Tribal Agency | County | Phone Number |
|--|--|--------------|
| Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians | — | 715-682-7127 |
| Bay Lake | Brown, Door, Marinette, Oconto, Shawano | 888-794-5747 |
| Capital | Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Juneau, Richland, Sauk, Sheboygan | 888-794-5556 |
| Central | Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, Portage | 888-445-1621 |
| East Central Income Maintenance Partnership | Calumet, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marquette, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago | 888-256-4563 |
| Forest County Potawatomi Community | — | 715-478-4433 |
| Great Rivers | Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, Washburn | 888-283-0012 |
| Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin | — | 715-634-8934 |
| Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians | — | 715-588-4235 |
| Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin | — | 715-799-5137 |
| Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MilES) | Milwaukee | 888-947-6583 |
| Moraine Lakes | Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha | 888-446-1239 |

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| Income Maintenance or Tribal Agency | County | Phone Number |
|--|--|--------------|
| Northern | Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Wood | 888-794-5722 |
| Oneida Nation | — | 800-216-3216 |
| Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | — | 715-779-3706 |
| Sokaogon Chippewa Community | — | 715-478-3265 |
| Southern | Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Rock | 888-794-5780 |
| Stockbridge-Munsee Community | — | 715-793-4032 |
| Western Region for Economic Assistance | Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Trempealeau, Vernon | 888-627-0430 |
| Wisconsin's Kenosha Racine Partnership (WKRP) | Kenosha, Racine | 888-794-5820 |

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