

# ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

Wisconsin serving you

*Providing the Latest Health Care Benefit Information to ForwardHealth Members*



## **You Will Keep Your Foster Care Medicaid 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 Foster Care Medicaid.

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.

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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?

Your caregiver may have reported changes that would have normally reduced or ended your health care benefits. While we recorded these changes, they will not affect your benefits for the rest of the federal public health emergency.

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?

Your caregiver still needs to report changes. Member Services has sent you letters with the types of changes that need to be reported. If you cannot find these letters, you can also call and ask Member Services what you have to report. Please call Member Services at 800-362-3002 to report changes.

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

If you have questions about your eligibility or want to stop getting your health care benefits, please call Member Services at 800-362-3002.

## 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 27, 2020. 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.

## REMINDER

Please continue to report changes to Member Services.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Member Services,  
800-362-3002

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## What if I purchased health care through the Marketplace?

Your caregiver may have purchased a qualified health plan through the Marketplace if they thought you would lose your Foster Care Medicaid health care. Because you will keep these benefits during the federal public health emergency, you may have benefits through both Foster Care 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 that you are enrolled in Foster Care Medicaid. 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 Foster Care 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](http://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](http://www.healthcare.gov).

## 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](http://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](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth.htm).

**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).

## RESOURCES

These websites have helpful information about these topics:

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

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