

ForwardHealth UPDATE

Wisconsin serving you

Providing the Latest Health Care Benefit Information to ForwardHealth Members



You Will Keep Your Supplemental Security Income 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 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) 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.

The Key Message

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

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

Until the end of the federal public health emergency, you will only lose 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 lost your SSI benefits, which would normally cause your SSI Medicaid benefits to end. However, your SSI Medicaid benefits will not change 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 SSI Medicaid benefits. We will send a letter before any changes happen.

What do I need to do?

If you get SSI, you still need to report changes to the Social Security Administration. The Social Security Administration website at <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-report-ussi.htm> says what types of changes you need to report.

You need to report changes to where you are living to the State SSI Unit at 800-362-3002.

You will not lose benefits during the federal public health emergency. If you have questions about your eligibility or want to stop getting your health care benefits, please call the State SSI Unit 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 the Social Security Administration if you get SSI.

Please continue to report changes to where you are living to the State SSI Unit.

CONTACT INFORMATION

State SSI Unit,
800-362-3002

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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 SSI Medicaid health care. Because you will keep these benefits during the federal public health emergency, you may have benefits through both SSI 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 SSI 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 SSI 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.

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.

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
- Changes to report to the Social Security Administration: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-report-ussi.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).