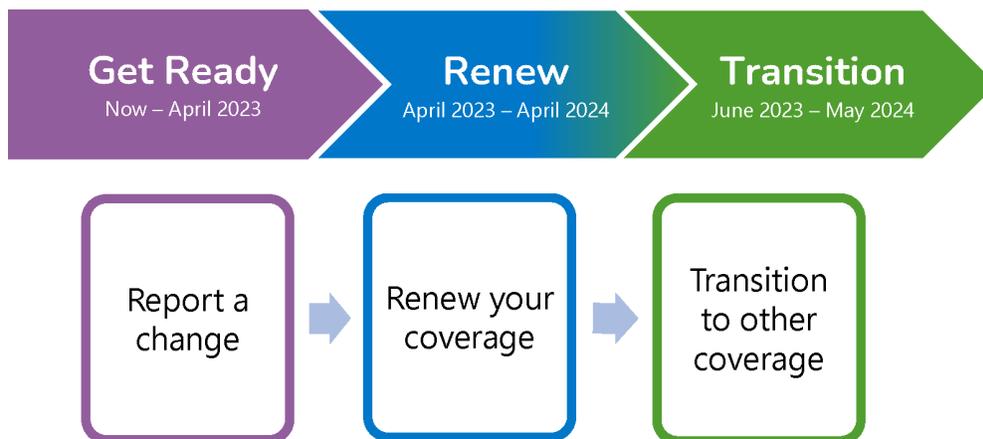


Continued coverage and the public health emergency

Talking points

- The Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023 ends extended coverage for all Apple Health (Medicaid) clients.
- The Health Care Authority (HCA) continues to partner with state agencies and stakeholders on client outreach.
- HCA will return to normal operations April 1, 2023 and end some policies that allowed continuous coverage for current enrollees.
- Some Apple Health clients will transition to other coverage.

Communications timeline



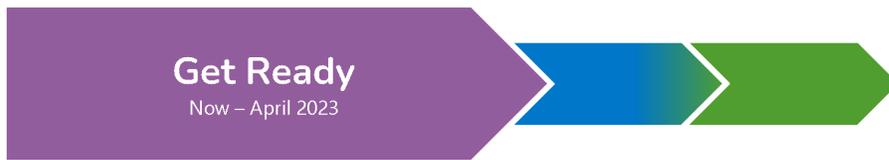
Background

During the Public Health Emergency (PHE) HCA extended coverage for all Apple Health (Medicaid) clients. Anyone who was eligible for Apple Health, including the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), on or after March 18, 2020, retained coverage unless they requested closure, moved out of state, did not meet immigration or citizenship criteria, or passed away.

This extension is now ending due to the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023. States are required to redetermine eligibility for individuals currently receiving Apple Health. HCA will start this process beginning April 1, 2023.

This reduction in eligibility is expected to initiate the largest health coverage transition since the first open enrollment of the Affordable Care Act. Not every Apple Health client whose eligibility was extended during the PHE will lose health coverage. Many individuals will be eligible for new forms of coverage including Medicare, Employer Sponsored Insurance, or Qualified Health Plans.

Preparing for redeterminations



HCA partnered with Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to communicate the importance of updating client contact information through:

- Implementing multi-pronged communication to clients (text messaging, social media, etc.).
- Leveraging community partners, advocacy organizations, health plans, and providers to communicate with clients through the [Apple Health ambassador program](#).

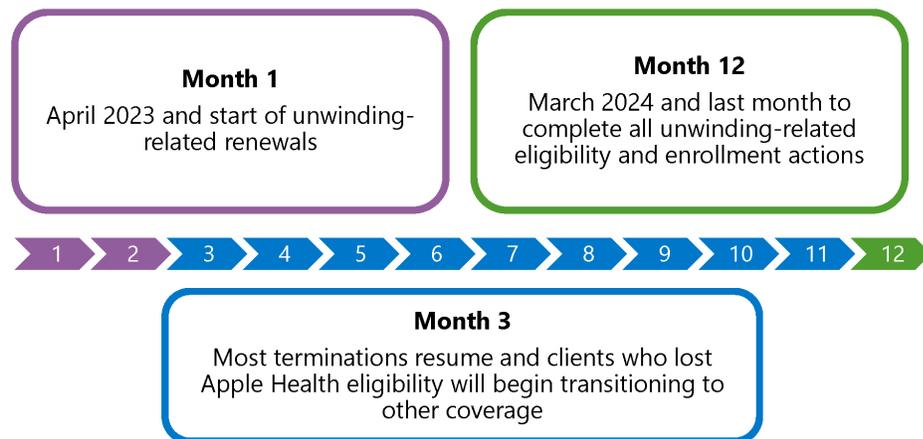
Our eligibility teams will be processing an unprecedented number of redeterminations in the 12 months after resuming normal operations. We will launch a robust outreach and communication strategy to ensure critical messaging reaches impacted individuals.

HCA has been working closely with our federal partners to ensure clients retain health care coverage. We are committed to applying an equity lens to planning and outreach, ensuring that our approach is simple for clients, straightforward for stakeholders, and considerate of the needs of all Washingtonians impacted. We strive to Move For**WA**rd on the path to a healthier Washington.

Status of the PHE

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the COVID-19 public health emergency will expire on May 11, 2023. HCA will still resume normal operations starting April 1, 2023.

Guidance



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting states 12 months to resume normal policies and processes and complete outstanding renewals. HCA has developed this plan in compliance with federal regulations following the HHS timeline for the PHE.

Return to normal operations



- Phasing out extra federal Medicaid dollars states have been receiving since March 2020.
- Ending some policies that allowed continuous coverage for current enrollees.
- Resuming premium collection for CHIP and Apple Health for workers with disabilities (HWD) programs.
- Determining eligibility for current Apple Health clients based on normal review cycles.
- Conducting outreach to clients to ensure up-to-date contact information.

Transition in coverage



Roughly 300,000 clients may no longer qualify for Apple Health during the transition period but may be eligible for other health insurance coverage such as Medicare, Employer Sponsored Insurance, or a Qualified Health Plan.

Clients will have the opportunity to renew their coverage prior to any closure or transition. We are coordinating efforts with other state agencies who provide coverage to individuals not qualified for Apple Health. Seamless transition of coverage is critical to our health equity efforts.

Resources

- [Communications toolkit](#): includes examples of letters and messaging that HCA will send to clients, social media toolkit, and recommended language for you to use in communications
- [Changes to Apple Health continued coverage](#)
- [Apple Health PHE webpage](#): Stay up to date on developments with Apple Health and the PHE
- [External Guide to Washington Apple Health \(Medicaid\) Post-PHE](#): HCA's plans for Apple Health eligibility after the expiration of the PHE.
- Questions:
 - Email: aheligcovid19@hca.wa.gov