
COVID-19 Vaccine Information Brief

February 17, 2023

IMPORTANT/NEW COVID-19 Vaccine Information

- Public Health Emergency Declaration Impacts on the COVID-19 Response

Public Health Emergency Declaration Impacts on the COVID-19 Response

On Jan. 30, 2023, the Biden Administration announced its intent to end the national emergency and public health emergency (PHE) declarations on May 11, 2023, related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since January 27, 2020, the HHS Secretary determined COVID-19 to be a public health emergency (PHE) pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. This PHE declaration activated certain emergency authorities under federal law.

Importantly, the ending of the public health emergency declared by HHS under the Public Health Service Act will not impact FDA's ability to authorize vaccines for emergency use. Existing emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for products will remain in effect and the agency may continue to issue new EUAs going forward when criteria for issuance are met. As IHHS receives additional guidance regarding the expiration of the PHE and the impact to state and local partners, information will be shared as soon as available.

The following measures ARE NOT tied to the PHE expiration on May 11, 2023.

Emergency Use Authorization

The end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declaration under Section 319 does not impact the EUA declarations under Section 564. **The EUA remains in effect, therefore, COVID-19 vaccines may continue to be administered.** The FDA has proposed a 180-day notice period for EUA expiration. No notice has been given by the FDA at this time.

Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act

HHS's PREP Act declaration provides liability protections for certain individuals and entities with respect to the manufacture, distribution, administration or use of COVID-19 countermeasures (i.e., drugs,

devices and biological products used to diagnose, treat, or prevent COVID-19). The PREP Act is independent of the PHE, so pharmacists and other healthcare worker cadres could continue to be covered under the PREP Act which authorizes the administration of COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

The PHE declaration expiration will have no impact on the vaccine ordering, vaccine distribution and vaccine redistribution processes. **The Department will continue to survey Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) monthly to determine each county's desired COVID-19 vaccine allocation.** The Vaccine Redistribution Policy and Process and Vaccine Redistribution Form will continue to be required for each vaccine redistribution. The COVID email will remain available to respond to questions. Questions can be emailed to: COVID19vaccine@idph.iowa.gov.

Statewide COVID-19 Vaccination Standing Order

The current COVID-19 Vaccination Standing Order will be updated as a result of the public health emergency declaration expiration. The updated Standing Order will be posted to the HAN Document Library closer to the PHE expiration. The current COVID-19 Vaccination Standing Order remains in effect.

Measures Impacted by the PHE expiration on May 11, 2023

The following measures ARE tied to the PHE expiration on May 11, 2023. As IHHS receives guidance regarding the expiration of the PHE and impact to local partners, information will be shared as soon as available.

Required coverage with no cost sharing for COVID-19 vaccines*

This measure will expire at the end of the quarter in which the PHE ends (June 20, 2023). This applies across payers for the coverage and costs for COVID-19 tests, treatment and vaccines.

Required coverage with no cost sharing of COVID-19 vaccine for Medicaid populations; 100% federal match for COVID-19 vaccines*

This measure expires at the end of the first calendar quarter that begins at least one year after the end of the PHE (e.g. September 30, 2024). More information on this coverage can be found [HERE](#).

Additional Resources

- [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)
- [FDA FAQ on Public Health Emergency Expiration](#)
- [Unwinding and Returning to Regular Operations after COVID-19 | Medicaid Coronavirus Waivers | CMS](#)
- [Following Unprecedented Response to Pandemic, FEMA Announces the Agency Will Close All COVID-19 Disaster Declaration Incident Periods on May 11 | FEMA.gov](#)