

# ForwardHealth UPDATE

Wisconsin serving you

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



## You Will Keep Your Emergency Services 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 Emergency Services 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.

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.

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 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 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.

## REMINDER

Please continue to report changes to your agency.

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## 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 Emergency Services Medicaid health care. Because you will keep these benefits during the federal public health emergency, you may have benefits through both Emergency Services Medicaid and the Marketplace.

The Internal Revenue Service has said that being eligible for Emergency Services Medicaid does not affect your eligibility for federal Marketplace benefits or the 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).

## 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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**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 (WKRK)	Kenosha, Racine	888-794-5820

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