**Public Health Emergency Summary**

**Federal Information and Impacts:**

**Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended - May 11, 2023.** In addition to the [LeadingAge Resource page on this topic](https://leadingage.org/end-of-the-phe-what-home-health-hospice-and-nursing-home-providers-need-to-know/), here are some helpful resources:

* Additional summary details are found in [this LeadingAge article](https://leadingage.org/phe-will-end-may-11-what-this-means-for-nursing-homes/), and also [here](https://leadingage.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/LeadingAge-Medicaid-Unwinding-2-22-23.pdf) (Medicaid enrollment ramifications), and [here](https://leadingage.org/cms-announces-end-to-vaccine-mandate-provides-guidance-for-end-of-phe/) (other considerations); and [here](https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A684582b2-cd7c-456a-92c4-8ea59375a377&viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover) for an outside entity’s summary of waivers that were sunset in May-July 2022.
* **1135 Federal Blanket Waivers (Nursing Homes):** LeadingAge chart of Waivers affected by end of PHE is [here](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L7QWKYcmJEVIIuu20uP-oE5qL0iesePg-G4fZJDpE3mohbwaO-xmBBzkZc4fBWx2yXrvfS9lFQu0QNoaklNQ4r9BnEDFY-pAKv-HJXsgp2KzpPUi_BOW77jKh8pO_3KUzGNyRyLgGZoshe_fZSRF1aQn7DLJIb_jb9UkBCaYDa-QmKa5J8TKy69XydzliE0jlmvh1xjpVHrEc5uGInldHU6GflgHJE6vFw5FJNT3UiW_e69NQNtFel5akJtz94rhCknukBoK6VU=&c=dTqHQurHp9EAdryRqlFPZ5a9IlEFjAjCqcdP2wOVt1vvFWdbE3BS7g==&ch=xtrMfJrVpy3Zeefc90dlR-UfxupBRPkaz0wfshzPdoJ5NwyINo8fsQ==). Notably, the 3-day prior hospitalization waiver expired on May 11.
  + See also this April 7, 2022 CMS [QSO-22-15-NH & NLTC & LSC](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-15-nh-nltc-lsc.pdf) addressing the expiration timelines of certain 1135 waivers relative the PHE.
* **LeadingAge QuickCasts for Nursing Homes on End of PHE.** [Part 1](https://learninghub.leadingage.org/courses/the-end-of-the-public-health-emergency) is an 11-minute QuickCast that provides an overview of what nursing homes need to *know* about the end of the PHE while [Part 2](https://learninghub.leadingage.org/courses/preparing-for-end-of-the-public-health-emergency) is a 16-minute QuickCast outlining what nursing homes need to *do* about the end of the PHE.
* **CMS QSOs:** 
  + **General Summary QSO -** [QSO-23-13-ALL](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-23-13-all.pdf) (May 1, 2023). Staff vaccination mandate that requires staff in most CMS-certified settings to be “fully vaccinated” (complete a primary series) against COVID-19 will end.
    - **May 31, 2023 - CMS Ends Staff Vax Mandate; Finalizes Certain Other Provisions for Nursing Homes.** The rule, [“Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Policy and Regulatory Changes to the Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Requirements; etc.,”](https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-11449/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-policy-and-regulatory-changes-to-the-omnibus-covid-19-health-care) will go into effect 60 days after the date of official publication in the Federal Register which is currently scheduled for June 5. **CMS will NOT be enforcing staff vaccination requirements between now and the effective date of this rule.**
  + **CMS Updates Visitation Memo to Align with Ending of the PHE.** On May 8 CMS revised [QSO-20-39-NH](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf) directing nursing homes to follow nationally accepted standards such as the CDC recommendations for resident and staff testing, indoor visitation and the adherence to infection prevention and control.  The FAQ document attached to the Memo has also been updated.
    - **Testing.** Effective May 11 [QSO-20-38-NH](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) is no longer in effect.  See LeadingAge article [here](https://leadingage.org/cms-visitation-for-all-residents-testing-requirement-sunsets/).
* **CMS fact sheets on Waivers, Flexibilities, and the Transition Forward from the COVID-19 PHE**.  [See the factsheet here,](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/what-do-i-need-know-cms-waivers-flexibilities-and-transition-forward-covid-19-public-health.pdf) this [roadmap](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-covid-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html), the CMS [1634 agreements](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title16b/1634.htm), and the related FAQ [here](https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/caa-2023-unwinding-faqs-05122023.pdf). Also here: [Long Term Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities and/or Nursing Facilities)  (PDF)](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/long-term-care-facilities-cms-flexibilities-fight-covid-19.pdf); [Home Health Agencies  (PDF)](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/home-health-agencies-cms-flexibilities-fight-covid-19.pdf); and here - [Hospice (PDF)](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hospice-cms-flexibilities-fight-covid-19.pdf).
* **CDC Releases Updated Recommendations for Healthcare Providers.** This [LeadingAge article](https://leadingage.org/cdc-updates-infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations-for-healthcare-settings-for-end-of-phe/) provides details. The Community Transmission rates metric for SARS-CoV-2 data will sunset and has been removed from the guidance.  Updates in the [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html) include:
  + Admission testing in nursing homes will be at the discretion of the facility, as it already is for other healthcare settings.
* Facilities are encouraged to look beyond SARS-CoV-2 and make broader masking decisions based on facility-and-patient-level characteristics and local metrics that could reflect increasing respiratory virus transmission in the community.
* **FDA Guidance on PHE Ending.** Read more [here](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-related-guidance-documents-industry-fda-staff-and-other-stakeholders).
* **HHS Distribution of COVID Test Kits** to Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Providers WILL continue after the PHE ends.Please email[Binax.Team@HHS.gov](mailto:Binax.Team@HHS.gov).

**State Information and Impacts:**

* As a reminder, [here is a list of waivers](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001JkX4JFAomp6H9uLG6XoiM7wGQCeeDLYQ3CPzDsCbXi3a_kfToOLVI3onzRZKkDQk-TPqYcso4yjuyCOy7_I4GWuxE00yF2MyTc_qHrzMd1gsBVRyH3Pt6FXR-ctpGn_azl4MbKcnK-E2k4Ig7tV6cDzbJnU-efe-QwwWwxoircEZgZLsLmNfhB0ATUlp-fXhOlGb52CcX2WnjOqsXvHTmwHVbUmSPMBO7WyxhYOBXFA=&c=ppgknlrN-mNdb270fyYYrOxHOpiH3vTtgSle0rCYcUuQxfy7T8pBrA==&ch=jfqwWUfkGWHBEbs6pbeOSvgE7VOYB4CDLJxIWTjG-N5lXGYM8-LzyQ==) (state and federal) that were implicated by the PHE.
* **FSSA Waiver Announcements:**
  + FSSA announces the end of Appendix K and other flexibilities (June 1, 2023). [The updated document can be found here.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmluLmdvdi9mc3NhL2RhL2ZpbGVzL1BIRS1BZ2luZy1GQVEucGRmIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDYwMS43NzU3NTk2MSJ9.eXRrM3qiKPKKKQ1k3_O7XpkpgvRwXVcMnzS_WTRIqbo/s/1120047692/br/204045504852-l)
  + [IHCP Bulletin](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L7QWKYcmJEVIIuu20uP-oE5qL0iesePg-G4fZJDpE3mohbwaO-xmBBzkZc4fBWx20n8HHZbroWSupZBIVr9CTUv7prqvepNcDXDUK_cG9n7vH2PysVVf-pVgGtUXvtZJ7_ELkEh1ra_YprzAKtQ19ZrDLex7t_v3AteU9sm07Pnz9mLdiWQUz7ehmKq9RhGLtic9YDfwATM=&c=dTqHQurHp9EAdryRqlFPZ5a9IlEFjAjCqcdP2wOVt1vvFWdbE3BS7g==&ch=xtrMfJrVpy3Zeefc90dlR-UfxupBRPkaz0wfshzPdoJ5NwyINo8fsQ==) on COVID-19 Waiver expirations.
  + Assisted Living / mLTSS Bulletins - [BT202220](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L7QWKYcmJEVIIuu20uP-oE5qL0iesePg-G4fZJDpE3mohbwaO-xmBBzkZc4fBWx2Mkobl6MF5mpzBz9AolAwDWX9wLl_lo_erOyOnbWgyEa1t_HPdJ2rGAlPQqCpydMO0K3wNTZS2nkEjIMui3J0vxd5jT8kCgqkughr_vciUSqVx0i-TabiBltUK3z5d9zFXMcBfuMVhZY=&c=dTqHQurHp9EAdryRqlFPZ5a9IlEFjAjCqcdP2wOVt1vvFWdbE3BS7g==&ch=xtrMfJrVpy3Zeefc90dlR-UfxupBRPkaz0wfshzPdoJ5NwyINo8fsQ==) (Business Acumen Training); and [BT202234](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L7QWKYcmJEVIIuu20uP-oE5qL0iesePg-G4fZJDpE3mohbwaO-xmBBzkZc4fBWx2ILuIQcHFtDFlUakW_-SEa_ArFo37-LqFvcNBTSlW3Jwn0ECF78KaQ4pypjTPoHHbx1JsrOmIPLIWZ3E6E3b7NXrG3axTQGSe8Z3sc3OQCgcDijGJta6nS0D6liuixmzp5vLvkr5m9IU=&c=dTqHQurHp9EAdryRqlFPZ5a9IlEFjAjCqcdP2wOVt1vvFWdbE3BS7g==&ch=xtrMfJrVpy3Zeefc90dlR-UfxupBRPkaz0wfshzPdoJ5NwyINo8fsQ==) (AL waiver/HCBS training).

**PHE-related IDOH Newsletters –**

**Archives –**

* [2021 Long Term Care Newsletters](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/contact/newsletters/2021-long-term-care-newsletters)
* [2020 Long Term Care Newsletters](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/contact/newsletters/2020-long-term-care-newsletters)

**Individual IDOH Newsletters:**

* [2023-11 – 05/18/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/2023-11.pdf)
  + CMS Memo QSO 20-39-NH: Nursing Home visitation – COVID-19 REVISED
* [2023-10 – 05/11/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2023/2023-10.pdf)
  + IDOH Guidance Regarding the Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions to Prevent MDRO Transmission
* [2023-09 – 05/04/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/2023-09.pdf)
  + CMS Memo QSO-23-13-ALL: Guidance for the Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE)
  + New Aides Training Programs Newsletter
* [2023-08 – 04/14/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2023/2023-08.pdf)
  + Communicable Disease Reporting Update
* [2023-07 – 03/30/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2023/2023-7.pdf)
  + Statewide NATCEP Waiver Ending March 29
* [2023-06 – 03/16/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2023/2023-6.pdf)
  + Upcoming Medicaid Eligibility Changes
* [2023-04 – 02/16/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2023/2023-4.pdf)
  + Statewide NATCEP Waiver Update
  + CNA Training Clarifications and Updates
* [2023-02 – 01/19/2023](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2023/2023-2.pdf)
  + Temporary Nurse Licenses
  + Reporting Outbreaks
  + CMS Memo QSO-23-05-NH
* [2022-26 – 06/23/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-26.pdf)
  + Emergency Order for COVID-19 Waivers Expires July 1 – Reminder
  + Nurse Aide Training and Waivers Ending July 1 – Reminders
* [2022-21 – 05/19/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-21.pdf)
  + Nurse Aide Training and Waivers Ending – Reminders
* [2022-20 – 04/28/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-20.pdf)
  + Essential Family Caregiver (EFC) Program – Reminder
* [2022-18 – 04/14/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-18.pdf)
  + CMS Federal Waivers Ending
* [2022-15 – 03/24/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-15.pdf)
  + Nurse Aide Training and Waivers – Reminders
* [2022-14 – 03/17/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-14.pdf)
  + Emergency Order for COVID-19 Waivers – Reissued and expire July 1, 2022
  + CMS Updates – QSO-20-38-NH and QSO-20-39-NH – Revised
* [2022-13 – 03/10/2022](https://www.in.gov/health/ltc/files/newsletters/2022/LTC-Newsletter-2022-13.pdf)
  + Public Health Emergency and COVID-19 Waivers – Update
  + Changes to COVID-19 Reporting for LTC Facilities.