



Changes Coming to Virginia Medicaid/FAMIS Programs: Unwinding the COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE)

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) enacted certain measures and flexibilities to maximize availability and use of Medicaid/FAMIS during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

With a few exceptions, most Medicaid members have remained covered throughout the PHE, without having to complete their annual renewal, unless they:

- 1) Requested for their case to be closed,
- 2) Died, or
- 3) Permanently moved out of state.

What will happen when the PHE ends?

When the PHE expires, DMAS will have **14 months to determine** which of those currently covered by Medicaid/FAMIS are **still eligible to retain coverage**. This is referred to as “**unwinding**” the PHE. DMAS is planning for the PHE’s unwinding, and Virginians enrolled in Medicaid/FAMIS need to begin planning, too.

How long will the PHE last?

The federal government has continued to extend the COVID-19 PHE since it took effect in March 2020. **The PHE is now effective through mid-October 2022, with a further extension expected.**

DMAS needs help to ensure that Medicaid/FAMIS members’ contact information is up-to-date, so that they can receive communication about renewals at the appropriate time.

If a member has **moved or changed phone numbers** since enrolling in Medicaid/FAMIS, s/he can report this important change:

- To his/her Medicaid/FAMIS **health plan**, aka Managed Care Organization (MCO)
- Online at **commonhelp.virginia.gov**,
- By calling the **local Department of Social Services**, or
- By calling **Virginia’s One Benefits line at 1-833-5CALLVA.**