



Spring 2023 Changes Coming to Virginia Medicaid/FAMIS Programs

“Unwinding” the COVID-19 Medicaid Continuous Coverage

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) enacted certain flexibilities to maximize availability and use of Medicaid/FAMIS during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most significantly, the Medicaid **Maintenance of Effort (MOE)** flexibility made it so **most Medicaid members remained covered throughout the pandemic, without having to renew their eligibility each year.** This was known as the Medicaid “continuous coverage” requirement.

What is changing? When?

Beginning in Spring 2023, DMAS will have **14 months** to see if all 2.1 million Virginians who are currently covered by Medicaid/FAMIS are still eligible to retain coverage. This is referred to as “unwinding” the MOE. Thanks to automated eligibility systems, DMAS may be able to complete some Medicaid/FAMIS members’ renewal automatically (*called an ex parte renewal*), but others may need to provide more up-to-date information to ensure a successful renewal.

What can Medicaid/FAMIS members, and those who serve them, do to prepare?

DMAS **needs your help** to ensure that Medicaid/FAMIS members’ contact information is up-to-date, so that they can receive mailed correspondence from the state about their Medicaid/FAMIS renewal at the appropriate time. You can help **now** by encouraging members who have moved since 2019 to **update their contact information (especially mailing address and phone number)** with DMAS.

If a Medicaid/FAMIS member has **moved or changed phone numbers since 2019**, 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.**

Then, beginning in Spring 2023, Medicaid/FAMIS members should **be on the lookout** for mail from DMAS letting them know about next steps to ensure their Medicaid/FAMIS coverage can continue, if they are still eligible.