

## EMPLOYER NEWS

May 1, 2023

The federal government confirmed May 11, 2023, as the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Health Plan of Nevada and Sierra Health and Life have been planning for this change and reviewing recent guidance from the government agencies on how the end of the PHE affects COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatments.

HPN/SHL standard approach for COVID-19 vaccines, testing, treatment, and telehealth is as follows:

- **COVID-19 vaccines** – Cover ACIP recommended and CDC adopted COVID-19 vaccine and booster serum and administration as part of preventive benefits at zero-dollar cost share, when in network.
- **Over-the-Counter (OTC) tests** – No medical or pharmacy coverage of OTC COVID-19 tests for dates of service starting after May 11, 2023 unless mandated by state regulatory requirements. Members may use their account plans, such as Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) to purchase OTC tests.
- **Surveillance testing** – No coverage of in- or out-of-network surveillance testing.
- **COVID-19 lab-based testing** – Coverage of FDA approved or authorized physician or health care provider ordered lab COVID-19 tests in accordance with a member's standard plan benefits.
- **COVID-19 treatment** – Coverage for FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 treatments, including Paxlovid and molnupiravir (Lagevrio), in accordance with a member's standard plan benefits.
- **Telehealth** – Coverage for telehealth visits in accordance with the member's standard medical plan benefit for in & out of network (subject to cost share). Includes medical and behavioral telehealth services.

**Note:** State guidance may result in variance from HPN/SHL coverage.

**The post-PHE standard approach accomplishes the following goals:**

- Supports return to normal plan benefits in a timely and consistent manner
- Aligns with commonly acceptable coverage for similar services
- Reduces variability and member confusion
- Provides consistent communication and supports timely payment for providers

Refer to the [What to expect when the COVID-19 public health emergency ends flyer](#) and contact your HPN/SHL account representative for questions.

If you have questions on coverage, taxes, mandates, or mental health parity, please consult with your counsel or tax advisor.