

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR COVID-19 DISCONTINUATION

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

APRIL 09, 2022

HOW COVID-19 TESTING, TREATMENT, AND VACCINATION HAVE BEEN PAID

- **Federal Government**

- **Purchased COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines and made them available to individuals at no cost, regardless of their insurance status.**
- **Supported the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, which reimburses providers for the costs of providing COVID-19 testing and treatment services and vaccine administration to people who are uninsured.**
- **Note:** the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) gave states the option to provide Medicaid coverage for COVID-19 testing to people who are uninsured, regardless of their income, and receive 100% federal matching funds to cover the costs of providing care. However, this program ends the month the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends. *Renewed January 16, 2022 and up for renewal April 21, 2022*

<https://aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/Pages/COVID19-14Jan2022.aspx>

CONT.

- **For people with health coverage, COVID-19 diagnostic testing, treatment, and vaccines are generally covered services and providers can seek reimbursement for COVID-19 related costs from insurance companies and public programs.**

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FY 2022

BIDEN ADMIN REQUEST

- \$22.5 billion to support domestic and global COVID-19 efforts

CONGRESS APPROVED

- reduced this amount to \$15.6 billion and it was subsequently stripped from the final bill.

AFFECTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACT OF CUTTING THE COVID-19 DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL SUPPORT

- March 22, 2022 HRSA
 - Discontinues accepting claims for testing and treatment services
- April 05, 2022 HRSA
 - stop accepting claims for vaccine administration



ONCE FEDERAL FUNDING RUNS OUT WHO PAYS

- **The current supply of tests, treatments, and vaccines that have already been purchased by the federal government will remain free to people regardless of insurance status.**
- **Even while existing supplies remain, some providers will lose access to reimbursement for vaccine administration and other costs associated with providing testing and treatment for uninsured people without additional funding from Congress.**
- **Some uninsured children and adults may be able to access the **COVID-19** vaccine through existing immunization programs:**
 - currently two federal programs that provide vaccines to uninsured children and adults—the [Vaccines for Children Program \(VCF\)](#) and the [Section 317 Vaccine program](#).

CONT.

- Existing rules and protections will ensure that most people with health coverage will continue to have free access to **COVID-19** tests, some treatment services, and vaccines, though some limits on cost sharing will end when the **PHE** ends.

 - Medicaid is required to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment services for full-benefit enrollees with no cost sharing for at least a year after the PHE ends
 - For privately insured individuals, rules in place during the PHE require insurers to cover COVID-19 testing without cost sharing and prohibit insurers from requiring prior authorization for COVID-19 testing.
 - Medicare will continue to provide diagnostic COVID-19 testing and testing-related services with no cost sharing during the PHE, though a health care provider's order may be required. When the PHE ends, while the test will be provided at no cost, beneficiaries will face cost sharing for testing-related office visits and other testing-related services.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CURRENT SUPPLY RUNS OUT



WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- Uninsured individuals Pay out of pocket
- Medicaid and Medicare will continue to have access to COVID-19 clinical diagnostic tests and vaccines without cost sharing and while COVID-19 treatment medications will be covered at no cost for people on Medicaid, Medicare beneficiaries may face out-of-pocket costs for these medications when the PHE ends
- Direct increase in health disparities especially among elderly, low income, minority, and rural communities



BLACK COALITION AGAINST COVID-19

<https://blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org/the-state-of-black-america-and-covid-19/>

SIGNIFICANT POINTS

- **Black Americans recently experienced the highest rate of hospitalization for any racial/ethnic group since the inception of the pandemic.**
- **Black Americans are facing significant behavioral health challenges as a result of COVID-19.**
- **Inequities in Long COVID are emerging for Black Americans.**