

PATIENT ACCESS TO COVID-19 RESOURCES ONCE FEDERAL FUNDING ENDS

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COSTS & AVAILABILITY OF COVID-19 VACCINES, TESTS, & TREATMENTS

The Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration is set to conclude on [May 11, 2023](#). With this, comes the depletion of federally funded Coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines, tests, and resources. This will result in higher costs and limited coverage from insurance programs. According to the Department of Health and Human Safety, the availability of COVID-19 tests and vaccines will not change.²

Vaccines

- The populations covered under **Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** or **private insurance** will have their COVID-19 vaccines covered.¹
- Those with **short-term or limited-benefit** policies might have to pay the full cost with Moderna and Pfizer estimating their cost per dose being \$110-\$130.¹

Tests

- Those with **Medicare** will have to pay full price for at-home tests but still have access to clinical diagnostic testing under Medicare Part B.¹
- Those with **Medicaid** will still have coverage on both types of testing until at least September 2024, unless otherwise mandated by Texas legislature in the future.¹
- **Private insurance** carriers will be susceptible to cost sharing when it comes to testing. Insurers can limit access to only in-network providers, requiring a physician order or prescription in order to test.¹

Telehealth

- Flexibility for **Medicare/Medicaid** holders will remain and not be effected. Conversations about the ability to prescribe controlled substances virtually are currently still being held, however.¹

Treatments

- The Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 treatments like nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio™) will continue following the expiration of the PHE.²
- The Food and Drug Administration is currently working on transitioning these treatments to the traditional healthcare marketplace.²
- Generally, the cost of COVID-19 treatment will remain low and/or covered until federal stockpiles are used up.²
- **Medicare** will enlist cost-sharing for treatments and Medicaid will fully cover costs until September 2024.¹
- **Private insurances** will now depend on the individual's prescription coverage policy and treat COVID-19 treatments like any other prescription.¹

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNINSURED

- This population is responsible for covering all COVID-19 test costs.¹
- Locally, DFW, rapid tests are estimated to be \$190 while PCR tests are estimated to be up to \$150 plus lab fees.³
- Vaccination coverage can be assisted using the Vaccines for Children Program.⁴
- Both Pfizer and Moderna offer patient assistance programs.¹
- Uninsured patients will be fully responsible for the cost of COVID-19 treatments.¹

SUMMARY OF COVERAGE CHANGES FOR THE INSURED¹

Coverage	COVID-19 Tests	COVID-19 Vaccines	COVID-19 Treatments
Private Insurance	No longer required to cover both at-home and laboratory testing. General coverage depends on insurance plan.	Fully covered until federal supply depletes. Premiums will be effected.	Out-of-pocket expenses depend on individuals coverage.
Medicaid/CHIP	Fully covered until September 2024.		
Medicare	Laboratory testing covered if ordered by provider. Home tests not covered.	Access unchanged. Payment rate will be determined. Payment allowance will be updated for providers.	Cost sharing required. Provider reimbursement for commercially bought products.

HIGHLIGHTS

Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration ended May 11, 2023.

Until the federal stockpile is used up, costs of COVID-19 treatment will remain low and/or covered.²

COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and treatments will be covered for those under Medicaid until September 2024.²

Continuous Medicaid ended March 2023; renewal now mandatory for beneficiaries.⁵

Tarrant County Public Health offers request forms on website for free COVID-19 tests for the uninsured.

11th Amendment to PREP Act extends authorization of qualified individuals to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Effective May 11, 2023.⁶

Patient Resources Available

Government Assisted Programs for Long-COVID

The U.S. considers long-COVID a disability and offers additional resources/access to healthcare. Visit the Office of Disability and Office of Civil Rights. <https://www.covid.gov/assets/files/Services-and-Supports-for-Longer-Term-Impacts-of-COVID-19-08012022.pdf>

How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine? | CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>

Local Area Agencies on Aging

Provides services to anyone 60 or older - and their caregivers to services. <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/aging/care-people-60>

Parkland Health COVID-19 Testing

<https://www.parklandhealth.org/covid-19-testing>

Medicaid Renewal

Continuous Medicaid coverage ended March 2023. Beneficiaries need to now renew to continue coverage. <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/end-continuous-medicaid-coverage>

Moderna Patient Assistance Program

Details and links are pending release.

Patient Advocate Foundation - Co-Pay Relief

For families needing financial assistance due to COVID-19. Includes healthcare, food, housing, transportation, etc. <https://copays.org/funds/covid-19/>

Pfizer Patient Assistance Program

<https://www.pfizerxpathways.com/resources/patients>