



Dear Provider,

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has communicated it will [likely extend the Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) in 90 day increments through 2021](#). This is an update to the previous PHE extension that we communicated earlier this month, effective January 21, 2021.

As a reminder, the PHE declaration allows our Department to:

- Keep our emergency and waiver policies in place to reduce administrative burden on providers and increase access to care for members (such as telemedicine policies).
- Extend the continuous coverage provision that keeps many Coloradans covered by Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) when they might otherwise be disenrolled.
- Maintain the additional 6.2% of federal matching funding coming in to the state, which provides needed dollars during the fiscal crisis.
- Prohibit benefit reductions.

HHS has also committed to providing 60-days notice before the end of the PHE, in line with the Department's requests.

We will continue to update you through our e-newsletters and on the [PHE Planning web page](#). Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and your partnership in serving our members.

Kim Bimestefer  
Executive Director

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