

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Frequently Asked Questions - Brokers and Employers

Background: Optima Health has closely monitored the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and its variants in the United States and its presence in Virginia. In 2020, we extended additional coverage to our members in response to COVID-19. Earlier this year, the [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) announced](#) that “although COVID-19 remains a public health priority, we are in a much better place in our response than we were three years ago, and we can transition away from the emergency phase.” As a result, the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 expired at the end of the day on May 11, 2023.

Where can I get more information or updates about COVID-19?

For more information, please visit the CDC website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). Medicaid and Medicare members can also visit the [COVID-19 fact sheet on the CMS website](#) for more information. For additional updates, you may also visit optimahealth.com/covid-19.

COMMERCIAL COVERAGE AFTER MAY 11, 2023

The temporary provisions to waive cost sharing for COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and related services ordered by a physician or other provider, and over-the-counter (OTC) tests (eight per member per month) ended on May 11, 2023, for fully insured employer group plans, and BusinessEDGE® level funded group plans.

- COVID-19 OTC at-home test kits are still covered as follows:
 - With prescription: covered under your plan’s pharmacy benefits at the tier 1 cost share and are limited to four tests per month unless medically necessary
 - Without a prescription: not covered
- COVID-19 tests or related services during a physician visit:
 - Have the applicable cost share for the place of service
- COVID-19 vaccines:
 - In-network: this is covered as a preventive health service and is still \$0 for all plan types
 - Out-of-network: HMO will not be covered, PPO and POS will be covered at the applicable cost share

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MEDICAID AND MEDICARE COVERAGE AFTER MAY 11, 2023

MEDICAID:

- COVID-19 over the counter (OTC) at-home test kits will continue to be covered
- COVID-19 tests or related services during a physician visit
- COVID-19 vaccines
- No copayments for Medicaid and FAMIS members
- Pharmacy: 90-day supply for many drugs (to view the most recent list of these drugs, visit virginiamedicaidpharmacyservices.com/provider/documents/)
- Telehealth is permitted for many practice areas and telehealth supplements that provide guidance are attached to the following Medicaid Manuals: ARTS, Mental Health, Psychiatric Services, Physician Practitioner, Home Health, Early Intervention, and Rehabilitation

MEDICARE:

- COVID-19 vaccines
- COVID-19 at-home tests
- COVID-19 pharmaceutical treatments
- COVID-19 PCR and rapid tests ordered or given by a health professional

Medicare members can order COVID-19 test kits through our partner, NationsBenefits®. OTC COVID-19 test kits are available for ordering online or by calling 1-877-438-7521 (TTY: 711), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Kits will be delivered within 7-10 days. Members should have their Optima Health member ID number and plan ID handy when ordering.