

## ***April 5, 2023 Update on COVID-19***

### **The Federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 is ending**

The Federal Public Health Emergency as well as the national emergency for COVID-19 are ending on May 11, 2023. Blue Cross of Idaho made a number of changes to support our members and administer benefits during the pandemic. Now that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and national emergency are ending, we will be reinstating standard benefits and adjusting or eliminating some of the changes we made for COVID-19.

### **Benefit Changes**

Benefit changes due to the end of the public health emergency are the most likely changes to affect our members. These changes will be administered within 60 days of the end of the PHE and no later than July 10, 2023:

- **COVID-19 testing:** Claims for FDA approved or authorized COVID testing claims will be covered at regular plan in-network or out-of-network cost-sharing amounts, if your plan covers diagnostic tests.
- **COVID-19 immunizations:** Claims for COVID-19 immunizations and boosters will be covered at 100% (no cost to members) since they are included in the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend list of vaccines, if your plan covers immunizations.
- **COVID-19 Treatment:** Claims for medically necessary treatments authorized, cleared, or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), such as Paxlovid, may be covered based on the terms of coverage in your health plan, including cost-sharing such as co-pays and deductibles.
- **At-home COVID tests:** at-home rapid tests for COVID will no longer be covered after May 11, 2023.

### **Changes to Filing Deadlines**

A number of filing deadlines are changing with the end of the public health emergency. While these changes might impact members less commonly than benefit changes during COVID-19, they are still important. These changes are effective July 11, 2023:

- **Claims filings:** All pandemic-related extensions to claims filing deadlines will cease and standard claims filing deadlines in a member's plan will apply.
- **Appeals deadlines:** All pandemic-related extensions will cease and normal filing deadlines will apply for appeals and external review based on a member's plan.
- **Plans subject to COBRA:** All pandemic-related extensions to sign up for COBRA continuation coverage, make a first premium payment, and make monthly payments will cease and normal COBRA notice and payment deadlines will be applied based on a member's plan.

- **Plans subject to special enrollment rights under HIPAA:** Special enrolment deadlines after marriage, divorce, birth of a child, adoption, or loss of coverage will be applied based on a members' plan.

Please contact customer service at the number on the back of your ID card or call (208) 331-7347 if you have questions about what these changes might mean for you.