



Image from the Kansas Reflector, Rachel Mipro, author. January 11, 2023. "Janet Stanek affirms the safety of COVID-19 vaccinations to lawmakers questioning Kansas health response to the COVID-19 pandemic during a Jan. 11, 2023 committee meeting.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Government introduced the Public Health Emergency (PHE) which, among other things, blocked states from ending Medicaid benefits for people who were no longer eligible. After numerous extensions, this continuous coverage period is now set to end March 31 - even if the Public Health Emergency is extended - and states will then have 12 months to restart eligibility checks as the federal funding winds down.

"State Medicaid Director Sarah Fertig said the process would be lengthy, estimating that 525,000 Kansans are currently enrolled in Medicaid, with about 115,000 more users than normal." - *Source: Topeka Capital-Journal, Jason Tidd, Jan. 18, 2023*

The implication, it's suggested, is that these 100,000+ additional enrollees will likely lose coverage.

"We've been putting off doing eligibility redeterminations for large chunks of our population for almost three years now; we're going to resume them," Fertig said. "And what that means is we have some folks on the Medicaid rolls now who, once we try and renew them for eligibility, they're not going to be eligible anymore. And they're going to be falling off the rolls." - *Source: Kansas Reflector, Rachel Mipro, Jan. 11, 2023*

The Kansas Reflector article reports that Fertig's department is finalizing plans for determining Medicaid eligibility, in an attempt to make the transition smoother. Those plans will be submitted for review in February.

Read more in the [Kansas Reflector Article: With Medicaid 'continuous coverage' ending soon, many Kansans may lose access to care](#)