This week's update provides an overview of the status of the state's public health emergency, the MassHealth renewal process, and our regional Narcan trainings.

This Wednesday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced Massachusetts' COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, 2023. This date aligns with the end of the federal public health emergency. The state's COVID-19 vaccine requirement for executive branch state employees will also be rescinded. To read the press release, click <u>here</u>.

In March of 2022, MassHealth prevented member's coverage from ending during the COVID-19 emergency, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This resulted in continuous coverage, causing an increase of more than 25% of MassHealth Members (1.8 million to 2.3 million members). Starting April 1, 2023, MassHealth will return to their annual eligibility renewal process. All members will need to renew their health coverage to ensure they still qualify for this benefit. This process will take place over 12 months. MassHealth recommends educating members on the upcoming renewal to reduce any gaps in coverage. Members should update their contact information, report any household changes (i.e. new job, change income, disability status, or pregnancy), create a MA login account (mass.gov/masshealthlogin), and most importantly read all mail from MassHealth (blue envelope in the mail). For more information on the process, click here. I have also included an image of an available flyer from MassHealth.

MassHealth members will soon need to renew their health coverage.





Don't have an account?

MassHealth

If you are under 65, visit mass.gov/mass or scan the QR code:

Make sure MassHealth has your most up to date address, phone number, and email so you do not miss important information and notices from MassHealth. If we are not able to contact you, your coverage may change or you may lose your coverage during your renewal.

Report any household changes. These include a new job, address, changes to your income, disability status, or pregnancy. Update your information and report changes using your MA Login Account at www.mahikoog/ individual.

ealthlogin

I also want to provide an update on our Narcan trainings, which is a shared service of Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health. Since starting Narcan trainings, in December, our public health nurses have held 16 large group trainings. We have given out 231 kits, which equals 462 doses of Narcan. We also have 10 trainings set up across the 4 towns for March, April, and May.

Additionally, GBPH was accepted to host an intern this summer through Massachusetts's Department of Health, Local Health Internship Program. We participated in this program last year and it was a huge success. Our intern, Ariella, conducted a parent and provider survey to understand vaccine hesitancy and provide education to families. We are looking forward to working with another intern.