



LOCAL 36 BENEFIT FUNDS

2319 CHOUTEAU AVE., SUITE 300 · ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 · www.smw36benefits.org

Tel: (314) 652-8175 Toll-Free: (800) 741-9411 Fax: (314) 652-0338

April 5, 2023

NOTICE OF CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO THE END OF THE COVID-19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND THE NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

Near the start of the pandemic, the DOL and IRS provided that the claim or appeal filing deadlines would be put on hold during the Covid-19 "Outbreak Period" for all plans. Specifically, during the emergency, the time periods ran until the earlier of (1) 60 days after the end of the National Emergency or (2) one year from the original deadline. In addition to the National Emergency, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a Public Health Emergency.

The White House has now announced that the COVID-19 National Emergency and the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will both end on May 11, 2023.

Public Health Emergency

Based on the above-mentioned emergency declarations, the Fund has been covering the cost of Covid-19 diagnostic testing and related expenses, including in-home Covid-19 tests, without out-of-pocket expenses for participants.

Effective May 12, 2023, the Plan will no longer cover emergency over the counter Covid-19 tests. Over the counter testing includes those provided by a pharmacist, such as those provided by Walgreens or CVS. The plan will continue to cover COVID vaccines at 100% in accordance with the Affordable Care Act wellness benefits. Treatment for Covid-19 will be covered the same as any other illness.

National Emergency

For the deadline extensions under the National Emergency, the final date the deadline extension will apply is July 10, 2023. Effective July 11, 2023, all regular filing deadlines will resume, including:

- Claim and appeal filings,
- Requests for external review filing,
- Special enrollment requests, and
- COBRA elections, payments, and notifications.

Please contact the Fund Office at (314) 652-8175 with any questions you may have regarding this matter.

Respectfully,
Fund Office Staff