

MEDICAID RENEWALS

In 2020 the Federal Government made special rules that stopped Medicaid closures due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These rules recently changed. Vermont will now begin the usual Medicaid renewal process in April. You will stay on Medicaid if you still meet the income, age, and residency requirements. If you no longer qualify, your coverage can close. If this happens, you will have a chance to sign up for other types of insurance. **The Office of the Health Care Advocate is here to help if you have questions or concerns about the Medicaid renewal process.**

Medicaid Renewal:

The Medicaid renewal process will begin again in April of 2023. Vermont Health Connect (VHC) will send you a renewal letter requesting information. They may request that you send them information to confirm that you meet the income, residency, and age requirements to stay on Medicaid. You may have to provide proof of your current income.

They will not do all of the Medicaid renewals at once. Instead, they will send renewal letters out in batches over the next 14 months. Responding to these letters and giving VHC the information they request is important.

Update Your Contact Information:

You should make sure that VHC has your current mailing address, phone number, and email address on file so they can send you a renewal letter and other important updates.

Call them at **855-899-9600** or log into your portal by visiting vermonthhealthconnect.gov to confirm that this information is up to date.

Closure Notice:

You will stay on Medicaid if you still meet the income, age, and residency requirements. But If you no longer qualify for Medicaid coverage, VHC must send you a closure notice before your benefit can end. They must give you notice before the closure date. Medicaid coverage will not close until the last day of a given month.

Special Enrollment Period:

If you no longer qualify for Medicaid and are not on Medicare, you can get a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a health insurance plan through VHC when your coverage ends. You will have **60 days** after your Medicaid closes to sign up for insurance through VHC.

If your employer offers insurance, you can sign up for that coverage when your Medicaid closes. But it's important to act quickly. The Special Enrollment Period for employer insurance can be limited to 30 days.

Medicare:

Call the Office of the Health Care Advocate for individualized advice if you have Medicare and have questions about Medicaid and your insurance options.

Call us with Questions:

The Office of the Health Care Advocate is a free and confidential resource for Vermont residents who have questions about health insurance or access to care. Call us if you have questions about how the Medicaid renewal process or any other health care related issue. You can reach our HelpLine at **1-800-917-7787**. You can also get more information on our website or submit an online help request at vtlawhelp.org/health.