



CMS Snapshot

August 13-19, 2021

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 12pm Friday, August 13 through 2pm Thursday, August 19, 2021.

News Releases

*August 13- [Secretary Becerra Statement on LIHEAP's 40th Anniversary](#). HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement to mark the 40th anniversary of the [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#), August 13, 2021: "For forty years, this program has helped low-income families pay their home heating and cooling bills. This program is at the core of HHS' mission—enhancing the health and well-being of all Americans," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "With extreme winters in Texas and record-breaking three-digit temperatures across the country, LIHEAP is more important than ever for people struggling with their utility bills. President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) included the largest increase in the program's history, providing \$4.5 billion in additional funding. With these additional funds, the program is able to offer relief to millions of working families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I will continue to work with President Biden to strengthen this lifeline and ensure that it is accessible for everyone who needs it."

*August 13- [Biden-Harris Administration Provides \\$20 Million to Support Native Hawaiian Health Care](#). Funding Will Increase Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Treatment among Native Hawaiian Populations.

*August 13- [People With Medicare Who Are Immunocompromised Would be Able to Receive an Additional COVID-19 Dose At No Cost](#). In response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent action that authorizes an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals, CMS is assuring people with Medicare who qualify for an additional dose that they can receive it with no cost sharing. This is part of President Biden's commitment that patients have access to the necessary vaccinations to protect themselves from COVID-19.

*August 18- [Biden-Harris Administration Invests over \\$19 Million to Expand Telehealth Nationwide and Improve Health in Rural, Other Underserved Communities](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration is announcing key investments that will strengthen telehealth services in

rural and underserved communities and expand telehealth innovation and quality nationwide. These investments—totaling over \$19 million—are being distributed to 36 award recipients through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

*August 18- [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Additional Action to Protect America’s Nursing Home Residents from COVID-19](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is developing an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations within the nation’s more than 15,000 Medicare and Medicaid-participating nursing homes.

*August 18- [Joint Statement from HHS Public Health and Medical Experts on COVID-19 Booster Shots](#). Today, public health and medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the following statement on the Administration’s plan for COVID-19 booster shots for the American people: “The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant”.

Fact Sheet

*August 13- [Colorado: State Innovation Waiver](#). The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (collectively, the Departments) approved Colorado’s application for an extension of its State Innovation Waiver (referred to as a “section 1332 waiver”) under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for an additional five years (for a waiver period of plan years (PYs) 2022 through 2026).

Blog

*August 16- [Life changes? You can still get 2021 health coverage](#). Now that the August 15 enrollment deadline due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency has passed, you can get or change 2021 Marketplace coverage only if you have a life event that qualifies you for a [Special Enrollment Period](#).

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov