



Local Union No. 598 Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Health & Welfare Plan & Trust

May 2023

End to COVID-19 Benefit Enhancements Which Have Been In Effect During the Public AND National Emergencies

Interim COVID-19 Benefits

Beginning in 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Local Union No. 598 Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Trust (“Trust”) approved interim COVID-19 Benefits which have been effective during the declared Public Emergency. With President Biden’s recent declaration that the Public Emergency is ending officially on May 11, 2023, the interim COVID-19 benefits will also sunset.

Claims for COVID-19-related tests and treatment will be processed as any other disease or provider-ordered testing—subject to cost-sharing, deductibles, network discounts (if any) and co-pays.

The following benefits are affected by the end of the Public Emergency:

- **IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS – Effective May 12, 2023**, Cost Share for COVID-19 related inpatient admissions will no longer be waived at in-network facilities.
- **TESTING – Effective May 12 ,2023**, provider-ordered COVID-19 testing and office visits for the test, associated lab testing and radiology services in an in-network or out-of-network hospital, emergency or urgent care facility or medical office; follow-up tests and provider visits for tests will no longer be covered without cost-share. These services will be covered at same benefit levels as all other provider-ordered testing.
- **PRESCRIPTIONS – Effective May 12, 2023**, CVS/Caremark early refill limits on 30-day prescriptions for maintenance medications at any in-network pharmacy will no longer be waived. Regular time limits will apply to prescription refills. You may wish to transfer your prescriptions to the CVS Mail Order pharmacy for home delivery of a 90-day supply of maintenance medications. Signing up is easy. You can request a prescription transfer to mail order by calling 866-818-6911. Be sure to have the names of your prescriptions, your physician name and phone number, your medical ID card and payment method when you call.
- **COVID-19 VACCINES – No change**. Your health plan will continue to cover Covid-19 vaccines and boosters at 100%.

- **OVER THE COUNTER COVID-19 TESTS – Effective June 1, 2023**, your health plan will cover up to four over-the-counter at-home Covid tests per covered person, per month. This benefit will be provided and administered by CVS Caremark who is the provider of pharmacy benefits for your health plan.
- **PLAN TIMELINES REINSTATED – Effective July 10, 2023**. President Biden signed a second declaration which ended the COVID-19 National Emergency on April 10, 2023. In accord with the end of the National Emergency, Plan timelines such as for filing claims and appeals, and as related to COBRA will be reinstated on and after July 10, 2023. Please see your Plan for information on these timelines.