



January 13, 2023

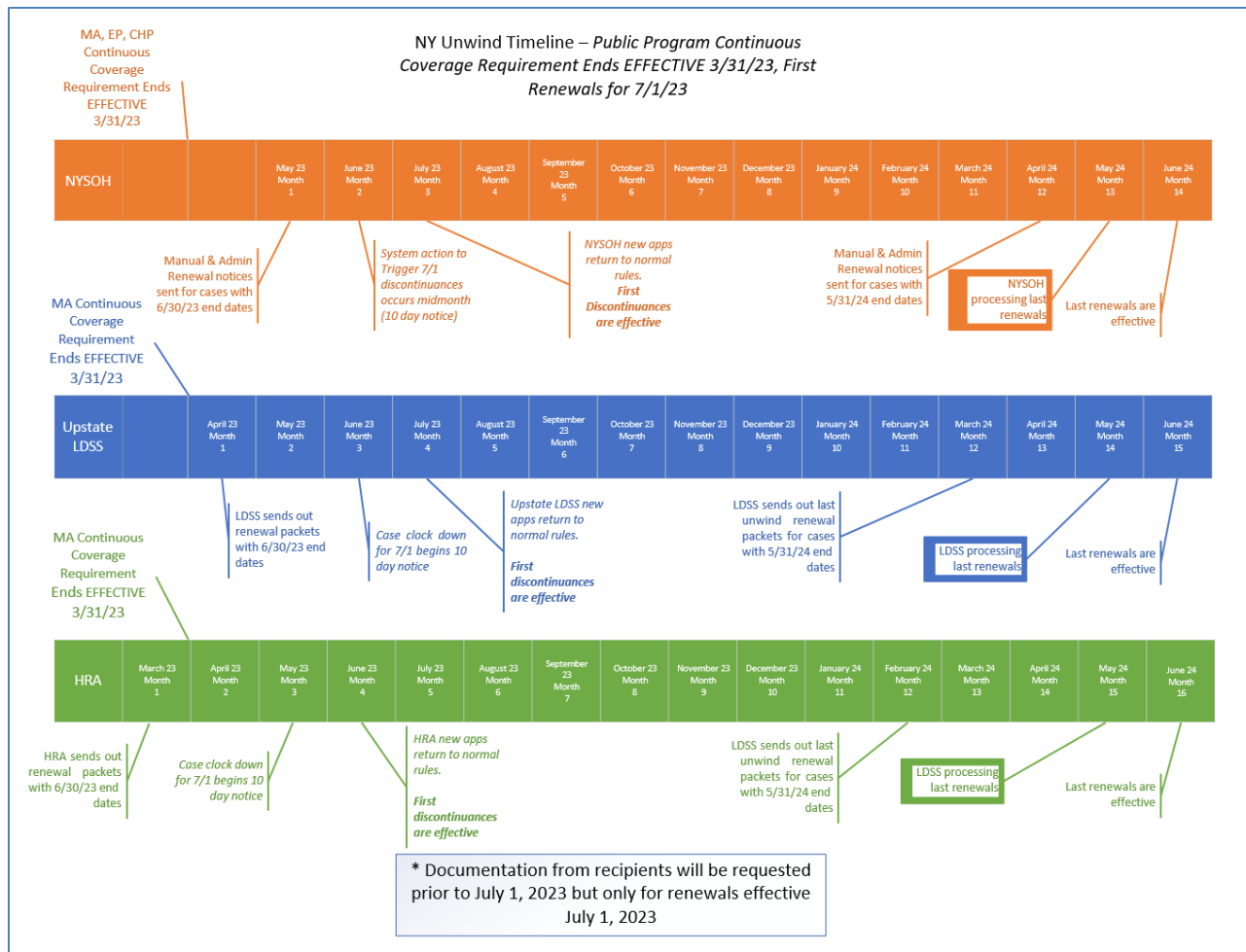
Dear Colleague,

Throughout the pandemic, the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) designation has provided important consumer protections, bolstering the State's efforts to ensure access to health coverage and care for New Yorkers. During this unprecedented crisis, NY State of Health and Local Departments of Social Services have served as a critical source of stability, safeguarding the health insurance coverage of over 9 million New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus (CHP), and the Essential Plan (EP).

On December 29, 2022, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CCA) was enacted. The CCA makes a number of policy changes to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), including some significant changes to the continuous enrollment requirements under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). As of April 1, 2023, the Medicaid continuous coverage requirement adopted by the FFCRA in March 2020 is delinked from the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

Pursuant to the CCA, the Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) issued an informational [bulletin](#) on January 5, 2023, which included information on key due dates for certain state unwinding deliverables and activities. States are required to begin issuing eligibility redetermination notices by April 2023. Resuming redeterminations is referred to as "unwinding" the continuous coverage provisions in the CMCS guidance. Pursuant to the guidance, renewals for New York's more than 7.7 million Medicaid enrollees and more than 1.3 million enrollees in Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan, must be completed by the end of May 2024. The timing of how this requirement will be effectuated in New York is depicted by eligibility system in the figure below.

New York's Medicaid program operates in three eligibility systems – NY State of Health for MAGI-Medicaid cases administered by the State, downstate WMS for New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA), upstate WMS for all counties outside of New York City. (NY State of Health also processes all eligibility determinations for EP and CHP.) Each of these systems has different timing requirements for notice issuance to consumers. It will be necessary for the State to follow the timeline detailed below to remain compliant with the federal rules.



CMCS has indicated that it will be issuing additional guidance in the coming weeks. The NYS Department of Health will be issuing formal guidance as soon as possible. We will also be posting regular updates to our websites and continuing to meet regularly with stakeholders.

NY State of Health has made available several outreach and marketing resources to help inform New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid, CHP or EP about the important steps they need to take to renew their coverage and help promote these messages. Outreach has included a robust [public education campaign](#), [paid advertising](#), option to receive [text notifications](#) about renewals, direct mailings and other communication [tools for consumers](#). Additionally, The NYS Department of Health is working closely with Local Departments of Social Services statewide. This includes sharing educational materials, videos and digital assets to support districts in their efforts to keep consumers covered.

Consumers with questions may reach out to the NY State of Health Customer Service Center at [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777) or to their local [Department of Social Services](#) office, or learn more on the [NY State of Health website](#) and the [Department of Health’s Medicaid website](#). Both sites will be updated regularly throughout the unwinding process.

Thank you for the work you have done throughout the very difficult circumstances presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency. We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure New Yorkers remain informed throughout the unwinding process and stay connected to affordable health insurance.

Sincerely,



Danielle Holahan  
Executive Director, NY State of Health



Amir Bassiri  
NYS Medicaid Director