**Website Banner Message**

Protect your coverage. Renew your Medicaid and CHIP. [Learn more here](https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/accessnebraska.aspx) https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-MOE.aspx.

**Blog**

Title: How Schools Can Protect Students From Losing Their Medicaid Coverage

There is a major healthcare coverage change happening that will impact students across the country who currently rely on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for health insurance.

Since the pandemic’s federal Public Health Emergency began in March 2020, children and families enrolled in Medicaid have not been required to complete renewal paperwork to stay covered.

Beginning April 1, the continuous coverage protection will end and states will resume reviewing eligibility for all people enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP to ensure they still qualify.

During this process, known as the “unwinding,” it is estimated that nationally 6.7 million children will lose their Medicaid coverage despite many of them continuing to be eligible for either Medicaid or CHIP.

To prevent an unnecessary loss of health coverage, it is important that parents act quickly to confirm or update their contact information with Nebraska Medicaid and provide the necessary information to complete their Medicaid renewal when notified.

Families can check when their renewal is coming up on ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov. Nebraska Medicaid has a [tutorial on how to check in advance](https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/Checking%20for%20your%20renewal%20date.pdf).

Schools and district administrators can play a key role in protecting children’s health coverage by ensuring families are aware of these changes to Medicaid.

The first step for families is to make sure that Nebraska Medicaid has the correct contact information for every member of their family on Medicaid so they receive their renewal notices when the time comes. If families don’t receive the notice, they may not realize their child has been disenrolled from coverage and is uninsured until it is too late.

The second step is for families to quickly fill out the paperwork and return it should they get a notification. If something goes wrong and their child loses coverage, then parents need to quickly reach out to a navigator or enrollment assistor to see if they can re-enroll in Medicaidor to check if they qualify for subsidized coverage through the ACA Marketplace. To learn more you can go to [HealthCare.gov​](https://www.healthcare.gov/) or contact the call center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).​

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) along with its partners have prepared a short toolkit (LINK to toolkit on AASA website?) with what you need to get the word out to families. The toolkit includes backpack fliers, newsletter blurbs, robocall scripts, and social media posts.

The unwinding of the Medicaid “continuous coverage” policy will be an unprecedented undertaking for Nebraska Medicaid and for families to ensure that children stay connected with their health coverage.

Schools are a central access point for students to be connected to necessary health services, and it is critical to keep children connected to health coverage to receive necessary care.

Keeping students connected to Medicaid is also important for the fiscal health of all districts. Almost all schools depend on Medicaid to help cover the cost of certain special education services.

To verify or update contact information, parents can go online at [ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov](https://dhhs-access-neb-menu.ne.gov/start/?tl=en) or call:

* Omaha: (402) 595-1178
* Lincoln: (402) 473-7000
* Toll-Free: (855) 632-7633
* TDD: (402) 471-7256​

Working together, we can make a big difference in protecting the health and well-being of children and schools.

[AASA wants you to be prepared, so please check out the resources we have developed for you to customize to your district including an email to parents, newsletter template, social media template, and more.]

**Newsletter Template**

Many students run the risk of losing Medicaid and CHIP coverage as regular renewals restart. Since the COVID-19 federal Public Health Emergency began in March 2020, children and families enrolled in Medicaid have not been required to complete renewal paperwork to stay covered. But with this pandemic-era policy ending, students enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP could lose their coverage if they do not submit renewal paperwork on time or if they are no longer eligible and need to transition to another form of coverage.

To protect their child and their family’s health care coverage, it is important that parents with children on Medicaid act quickly to confirm or update their contact information for every member of their family by contacting Nebraska Medicaid. Families should also provide the necessary information to complete their Medicaid and CHIP renewal when notified. Families could be notified about their renewal paperwork at any point this year or early next year.

If Nebraska Medicaid does not have the correct contact information for a family, parents may not receive their renewal notice and their children could lose coverage.

To verify or update contact information, parents can go online at [ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov](https://dhhs-access-neb-menu.ne.gov/start/?tl=en) or call in:

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It is also important for parents to open and respond to all mail from Medicaid and CHIP over the next year to avoid losing their health care coverage.

As regular renewals restart for Medicaid and CHIP, we want to make sure parents have the information they need to protect coverage for their child and other family members.

No longer qualify for Medicaid or CHIP and need help enrolling in the Marketplace? You can find free, unbiased help at:

* <https://howtogetcare.org/>
* <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/>