



Public Health Brief

Richard O. Johnson, M.D., MPH

Public Health Officer

Office: 530-694-2146, Ext 249

e-mail: rjohnson@alpinecountyca.gov

Nichole Williamson

HHS Director

Office: 530-694-2235

24/7/365 Emergency Contact Number

Dispatch: 530-694-2231, Ext 330



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End of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declaration

On May 11, 2023, the public health emergency (PHE) declaration will end. Among other policy implications, the end of the PHE will impact health policy measures associated with access to COVID-19 testing and treatment.

This is a guide to help keep you informed about what the end of the PHE means and does not mean. While the end of the public health emergency declaration has many implications, this guide is designed to communicate the information that is most relevant to the general public in Alpine County.

Does the end of the public health emergency mean COVID-19 is over?

No. COVID-19 cases are down sharply, but the end of the emergency declarations does not mean the virus is no longer a threat. The virus remains a [leading cause of death](#) in the United States, with about 250 daily deaths on average. Visit [CDC's website](#) and your state and local health departments for information about local infection rates and recommended precautions. CDC continues to advise that everyone [stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#), use at-home tests if they've been exposed or have symptoms, stay home if they're sick, and wear a high-quality mask when COVID-19 levels are high. These precautions are the best ways to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Alpine – I am not aware of any cases locally, but our risk is when we travel to other locations and possibly bring COVID back into the community, or when visitors bring it to us.



Public Health

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Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120

Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281

District 1: Charles Dobson, District 2: Ron Hames, District 3: Irvin Jim,

District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith

How will the end of the public health emergency affect community members?

When the public health emergency ends, COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be free for all, as long as the supply of federally purchased vaccines lasts. However, access to and cost of testing and treatment will vary on whether they have public, private, or no health insurance.

Alpine - We continue to have an ample supply of FREE at-home tests at the Health Department in Woodfords and at the Public Safety Office in Bear Valley. However, we do not and will not have any further vaccine available until the fall when new recommendations and vaccine arrive. In the meantime, if you wish to receive a COVID vaccination, check with your nearest pharmacy.

Vaccines

- Vaccines will remain free for everyone when the public health emergency ends. As long as the supply of federally purchased vaccines lasts, COVID-19 vaccines will remain free.

Alpine - We no longer have any COVID vaccine.

Testing and Treatment

- Coverage for COVID-19 testing and treatment will vary by insurance type.
- For people with Medicaid coverage, COVID-19 testing and treatment will remain covered at no cost through September 2024.
- For those without insurance, COVID-19 testing and treatment will no longer be covered, and the cost will be determined by individual providers. However, free tests and treatment may be available at local free clinics or community health centers.

Alpine - We have FREE at-home tests. Please consider testing anytime you have symptoms, are traveling, and especially if you are or anticipate being around persons at higher risk of COVID infection and complications.

We have FREE Paxlovid for persons who qualify after consultation with Becky Thornburg, our nurse, and Dr. Johnson, our Health Officer. Visits to our Alpine County Clinic in Woodfords to see our Nurse Practitioner Patience Wenck will be billed just like any other healthcare visits.

Looking for more communications resources about COVID-19 at-home tests? Find messaging and sample graphics in PHCC's toolkit: [When to Take an At-Home COVID-19 Test](#).



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Additional Resources

- [Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap](#), Department of Health and Human Services.
- [The End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Details on Health Coverage and Access](#), Kaiser Family Foundation.
- [The End of the COVID-19 Emergency: What Employers Need to Know](#), Health Action Alliance.
- [COVID-19 emergencies will end in May – What does this mean for you?](#), Public Good News.

To leave a message for Dr. Johnson, call 530-694-2146, and press Option 1. Your call will be answered within 24 hours.

To make an appointment for the Clinic, or to speak with Becky Thornburg, call 530-694-2146, and press Option 2.

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