

DBH eMemo *important news for you*

The federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration was renewed for 90 days effective February 11, 2023 and expiring May 11, 2023.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra has notified states that the Public Health Emergency will not be extended beyond 5/11/2023.

What to expect:

Until the May 11, 2023 expiration of the PHE, the Division of Behavioral Health will continue to provide the following flexibilities:

- [DBH Expanded Telehealth Services v1.3](#)
- [DBH Guidance 6 Service Authorizations](#)
- [DBH Guidance 5 v1.2 PRTF and Residential](#)
 - *acute psychiatric hospitals and PRTFs must continue to enter utilization review (UR) notes into the Comagine JIVA system and submit critical incident reports

On May 11, 2023, these flexibilities will end.

Service Authorizations:

- Services provided between July 1, 2022 and May 11, 2023 (SFY2023) will not be counted toward state fiscal year limit caps. No service authorizations will be required for services provided between those dates.
- Important dates:
 - Service authorizations will be required beginning May 12, 2023.
 - State Fiscal Year limits will be reset May 12, 2023.
 - State Fiscal Year limits will also reset July 1, 2023 (in the new fiscal year).
- Previously recorded training on the Optum service authorization process may be accessed here: [Service Authorization Training](#). Additional training will be presented by Optum Alaska on March 8, 2023 you may register for this training here: [link to register](#).

DBH is currently planning targeted outreach and support for providers impacted by service authorization requirements.

Please expect additional communications on this process in the coming weeks.

For questions regarding this information, please contact mpassunit@alaska.gov