

# First Friday Forum

HCA Update  
August 6, 2021

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# Agenda

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- ▶ Public Health Emergency (PHE)
- ▶ Postpartum coverage extension
- ▶ Compact of Free Association (COFA) Islander programs
- ▶ Justice involved re-entry
- ▶ Consumer Notices Workgroup
- ▶ Retro
- ▶ Questions

# Public health emergency

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- ▶ The Public Health Emergency (PHE) was renewed and extended through October 18, 2021.
- ▶ According to the [HHS letter to Governors\\*](#), the PHE could be extended through the rest of 2021.
- ▶ Health Care Authority (HCA) and its partners continue to maintain coverage for Apple Health clients by extending Apple Health coverage during the PHE. HCA will continue to share updates as new information becomes available.

\*Source: [https://f.datasrvr.com/fr1/621/80970/PHE\\_Extension.HHS letter to Governors.pdf](https://f.datasrvr.com/fr1/621/80970/PHE_Extension.HHS_letter_to_Governors.pdf)

# COVID-19 resources

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- ▶ **Apple eligibility and COVID-19:**  
[HCAAHEligCovid19@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCAAHEligCovid19@hca.wa.gov)
- ▶ **HCA information on COVID-19:**  
[hca.wa.gov/coronavirus](https://hca.wa.gov/coronavirus)
- ▶ **HCA stakeholder training & education resources:**  
[hca.wa.gov/stakeholder-training](https://hca.wa.gov/stakeholder-training)
- ▶ **HCA reference guides:**  
[hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/reference-guides](https://hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/reference-guides)

# Washington Listens

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[WAListsens.org](https://www.walistsens.org) helps people manage stress and anxiety they may be experiencing because of COVID-19.



# Postpartum coverage extension

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# Postpartum

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- ▶ In the process of updating the WACs that relate to postpartum extension.
- ▶ HCA continues to work on policy and system support development with its business partners.
- ▶ A sub-workgroup is being formed to work on outreach and communication specific to postpartum work. We are looking for consumers and stakeholder organizations to participate.
  - ▶ For more information, contact Melissa Rivera at [Melissa.Rivera@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Rivera@hca.wa.gov).





# COFA Islander Programs

# COFA Islander Programs

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- ▶ As of July 1, COFA islanders under age 65, without Medicare, have transitioned to Apple Health.
- ▶ COFA Islanders aged 65 and older or those who have Medicare must apply for Apple Health via [washingtonconnection.org](http://washingtonconnection.org).
  - ▶ They will remain on COFA Islander programs until the eligibility determination is complete.

# COFA Islander Programs

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- ▶ The COFA card or Navia card can only be used to pay outstanding bills generated during the time an individual had COFA Islander Health Care and COFA Islander Dental Care.
- ▶ The card cannot be used to pay for bills related to services received while on Apple Health. One benefit of having Apple Health is that there are no co-payments, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses.
- ▶ For more information, visit [hca.wa.gov/COFA](https://hca.wa.gov/COFA)

# Justice involved re-entry

# Re-Entry

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- ▶ New legislation directs HCA to re-evaluate the suspension process for an incarcerated persons' Apple Health eligibility.
  - ▶ Also requires coordination and pre-released planning between the Department of Corrections, local jails, and Apple Health managed care organizations.
- ▶ HCA is working to form a re-entry medical services workgroup with justice involved stakeholders and managed care organizations to consider ways to improve re-entry medical services for individuals.

# Consumer Notices Workgroup

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The Washington Apple Health Consumer Notices Workgroup\* includes consumers, advocates, and agency representatives. This collaboration focuses on improving Apple Health notices in Washington Healthplanfinder.



If you know of any consumers wanting to participate in our workgroup, contact: [Paige.Lewis@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Paige.Lewis@hca.wa.gov)

\*Source: [hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/consumer-notices-workgroup](https://hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/consumer-notices-workgroup)

# Retro

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# MAGI retro

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Oldest received date	Cases to be worked
7/29/2021	2



# Questions

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**MEDS email:**

[AskMAGI@hca.wa.gov](mailto:AskMAGI@hca.wa.gov)

**Managed Care questions:**

[HCAMCPrograms@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCAMCPrograms@hca.wa.gov)

**Email verification:**

[Apple@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Apple@hca.wa.gov)

**Data requests:**

[HCAData@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCAData@hca.wa.gov)