

IMPORTANT:

Upcoming Changes to Medicaid Eligibility

A new federal law made major changes to Medicaid eligibility.



Changes to Eligibility for Non-U.S. Citizen Adults (Begins October 1, 2026)

Limits Medicaid eligibility for adult noncitizens (who are not pregnant or within the 12 months postpartum) to Lawful Permanent Residents, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, and Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrants. Members who lose eligibility for full-benefit Medicaid due to this change may still be eligible for Emergency Services Medicaid. ***These changes apply only to adults. The eligibility rules for children and pregnant/postpartum members are not changing.***



Federal Work Requirements (Begins January 1, 2027)

Requires Medicaid Expansion members (most non-pregnant adults ages 19-64) to work, volunteer, or participate in a work training or education program to keep their Medicaid coverage. Some adults may be exempt from this requirement.



More Frequent Eligibility Checks (Begins January 1, 2027)

Requires states to review the eligibility of Medicaid Expansion members, except certain American Indians and Alaskan Natives, every 6 months. All other members will continue to have their eligibility reviewed once per year. Pregnant members still receive coverage through 12 months postpartum.



New Limits on Retroactive Coverage (Begins January 1, 2027)

Reduces retroactive Medicaid (coverage provided before the month in which a person applies) to one month for Medicaid Expansion member and 2 months for all other Medicaid members. Currently, all Medicaid members can get up to three months of retroactive coverage.



Members, don't miss updates about your coverage!

- Check your mail, email, and text messages regularly.
- Report all changes to your address and contact information.
- Read all information sent by Cardinal Care as soon as you receive it and respond quickly to all requests.

Learn More. Stay Connected!



Scan or visit **dmas.virginia.gov** to learn more about these changes, how to update your contact information and stay up-to-date.

If you have questions, need additional assistance, or require language assistance services or large-print documents, please call Cover Virginia at 1-855-242-8282 (TTY: 1-888-221-1590) or email covervirginia@dmas.virginia.gov.