

End of Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

IJC on Health Services

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CHFS Secretary Eric Friedlander

KDPH Deputy Commissioner Dr. Connie White

End of National Public Health Emergency

- Federal COVID-19 emergency grants concluded or ending summer 2024.
- COVID-19 testing support for long-term care facilities (LTCFs) will conclude June 2024.
- Antigen test support largely winding down, but will continue into 2024 for local health departments, homeless shelters, and corrections.
- Most responsibilities for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments are transitioning or already transitioned to commercial channels.
- Most data collection / analysis functions have transitioned to routine operations as is done for typical disease and mortality surveillance.

Enduring Improvements

- Many new laboratories and clinical sites onboarded to KHIE (KY Health Information Exchange) and now electronically satisfy disease reporting requirements more quickly, efficiently, and accurately.
- KYIR (KY Immunization Registry) now provides an [online public portal](#) where adults and parents can request and immediately receive their vaccination record as recorded in the registry.
- Public health warehouse has more robust supply of masks, gloves, gowns, ventilators, and other resources to support responses to both infectious and environmental disasters.
- New respiratory disease team will track COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and other relevant fall/winter respiratory illnesses.

Enduring Improvements

- Relationships and communications between state (KDPH) and local health departments (LHDs) are better than they have been in long time.
- Structural realignments of regional teams for preparedness (e.g., disaster response), epidemiology, immunization, infection prevention/control, and medical reserve corps are strengthening state/local public health collaboration and coordination across the entire commonwealth.
- Workforce development investments in educational, training, and team-building opportunities are enhancing knowledge, skill, and collaboration across the entire public health system.
- Long overdue improvements to salaries are beginning to stabilize the public health workforce and curtail many years of degradation.

Lessons Learned

- Public health and medical professionals are heroes who placed themselves in harm's way to help others.
- Modern science is remarkable:
 - genetic sequencing of COVID-19 within weeks,
 - new vaccines in about 10 months, and
 - monoclonal antibodies and oral antiviral treatments early in year 2.
- Once in a century, global pandemics:
 - are expensive,
 - disrupt all aspects of our lives,
 - can divide us as communities, but also
 - bring out the best in humanity and show we can overcome if we work together.