

# The Connecticut Department of Public Health announces the State's COVID-19 recovery and demobilization plans as the end of the Public Health Emergency nears.

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As the end of the national Public Health Emergency arrives, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced the State's COVID-19 recovery plans and next steps moving forward.

Earlier this year, President Biden announced that the national Public Health Emergency, which was declared in 2020, would expire on May 11, 2023. Under U.S. law, the President can declare a national emergency in response to a disaster or crisis. When the nationally declared emergency ends, those powers are lifted, and policies that the President enacted using emergency powers expire. Governor Ned Lamont's declaration of a Public Health Emergency under Connecticut law will end at the same time as the nationally declared Public Health Emergency.

The Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) would like to remind the residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven, and Woodbridge, that the best resources are still available to stay healthy, navigate their questions related to COVID-19, and work to reduce the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death associated with COVID-19. The state of Connecticut has made great progress from where we were when the pandemic first began and understands the importance of continued public health effort. Although the public health emergency has ended, residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven, and Woodbridge should still stay up-to-date with vaccinations, use at-home COVID-19 tests, stay home when sick, wear a high-quality mask when respiratory viruses are circulating at high levels, and work to incorporate effective mitigation strategies as needed.

"We have the necessary tools to continue to protect ourselves and live with this virus," added **DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD**. "We hope that COVID-19 will follow the trajectory of other seasonal illnesses and certainly expect to once again ramp up our efforts during respiratory disease season which typically runs from October through April."

Commissioner Juthani added that ongoing communications will be posted at [ct.gov/dph](https://ct.gov/dph) and that residents should visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website](https://www.cdc.gov) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidance. She also announced the details of the State's next steps in response to the end of the Public Health Emergency which include:

## COVID-19 Testing

- State supported COVID-19 testing at four Community Health Centers will end on June 30, 2023.
- Self-test kits are still available from the federal government at [www.covid.gov](https://www.covid.gov) or can be purchased at pharmacies and other retail outlets.

## COVID-19 Vaccines

- The DPH mobile clinics officially end on June 30, 2023. Organizations interested in making an appointment for updated COVID-19 vaccines through the mobile clinics can do so before June 19, 2023, via [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://ct.gov/coronavirus).
- For Connecticut residents who are homebound, the homebound COVID-19 vaccination program is available until June 30, 2023, after which time individuals should contact their health care provider to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or updated booster, just as they do for seasonal influenza vaccine and other preventative health care services.
- The federal government will continue to distribute vaccine to vaccine providers such as retail pharmacies and health care providers. After the public health emergency ends, the federal government will continue to distribute all available vaccines in their inventory, free to U.S. residents, until that inventory is depleted or expires.
- Once the federal government exhausts its inventory of COVID-19 vaccines, they will be made available commercially like other vaccines, such as flu vaccines, through an individual's private insurance plan; through publicly funded programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Vaccines for Children program; or directly by consumers.

## COVID-19 Therapeutics

- Access to treatments such as Paxlovid and Lagevrio will still be available from providers and retail pharmacies.

## Long-Term Care

- DPH will continue to support long-term care facilities in helping to identify and limit any COVID-19 outbreaks. DPH is committed to offering education and training for outbreak control which can affect the state's most vulnerable citizens.

## Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

- WIC program waivers will end 90 days after the Public Health Emergency ends (Aug. 9, 2023). More updates will follow.

## Disease Surveillance and Reporting

- DPH will issue its last COVID-19 report for the 2022-23 respiratory viral disease season on the Open Data Portal on June 1, 2023.
- COVID-19 public data reporting will resume on Oct. 5, 2023, and continue through the winter months, as part of DPH's respiratory surveillance reporting program. This new COVID-19 report will include data that are relevant to current COVID-19 disease activity and trends and integrate COVID-19 with viral respiratory surveillance reporting, including influenza.