

# Telehealth State/ Federal Updates

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WashingtonState  
**Telehealth** Collaborative

# State/Federal Updates

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- On March 10, the House and Senate passed a [\\$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill](#) with extensions on key telehealth flexibilities under Medicare for 151 days (5 months) after the end of the federal public health emergency order to ensure seniors have continued access to virtual care.
  - Unless renewed, the current federal PHE order is set to expire on April 16, 2022
  - More details in this article [here](#).
- The Biden Administration awards \$55 million in virtual care grants to community health centers to implement telehealth, digital patient tools, and health information technology in underserved communities
  - The aim is to provide virtual care beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency
  - This amount will be distributed among 29 health centers funded by U.S Department of Health & Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration
  - More details in this article [here](#).
- As part of its efforts to address the national mental health crisis, the White House plans to increase telehealth access via the following three ways:
  - Work with Congress to ensure coverage of behavioral telehealth across health plans, as well as support telehealth delivery across state lines
  - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services will establish a “learning collaborative” with state insurance departments to address state-based policies that act as barriers to telehealth access
  - U.S. Office of Personnel Management will encourage Federal Employees Health Benefits Program carriers to adequately reimburse providers for telehealth and eliminate or reduce co-payments for Americans seeking mental health telehealth services
  - Fact sheet [here](#).

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- The Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law (CTel) created a [50 State Public Health Emergency Survey](#), detailing which states have expired PHEs and which states have PHEs that may be expiring in the near future.
  - This survey will be updated on a weekly basis

State	Expiration Date	Grace Period
Wyoming	3/14/2022	For all physicians through 4/28/22 after which, all physicians must hold a full license
Oregon	4/01/2022	For those physicians holding Oregon emergency licenses, allowing such physicians to continue practicing under their emergency licenses through 6/30/22. After 6/30/22, physicians must hold a full license.
Idaho	4/15/2022	A determination of a grace period is pending

- The [study on the National Survey Trends in Telehealth Use in 2021](#) focused on differences in use between live video and audio-only telehealth modalities
  - Telehealth use was common and utilization rates were generally similar across most demographic subgroups, except those that were uninsured
  - Utilization rates of live-video telehealth were found to be lower among underserved populations, including among Black, Latino, and Asian respondents and those with lower incomes