

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: COVID PHE Gets Official HHS Renewal

PHE-related flexibilities will continue for some time.

The **Biden** administration has taken its first turn at a task everyone wishes would go away - renewal of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

On April 15 and effective April 21, HHS Secretary **Xavier Becerra** renewed the COVID-19 PHE. It is the PHE's fifth renewal, coming after former HHS Secretary **Alex Azar's** original Jan. 31, 2020, declaration and his renewals on April 21, 2020; July 23, 2020; Oct. 2, 2020; and, most recently, Jan. 7, 2021.



In a Jan. 22 letter to state governors, then-acting HHS secretary **Norris Cochran** said "the PHE will likely remain in place for the entirety of 2021."

Meanwhile, the CMS Administrator position still remains unfilled. President Biden announced **Chiquita Brooks-LaSure** as his nominee back in February, but at press time, the U.S. Senate has yet to confirm her.