

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: COVID-19 PHE Stretches 2 Years

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency has been renewed for an eighth time.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary **Xavier Becerra** renewed the PHE on Jan. 16, following previous 2021 renewals on Oct. 18, July 19, April 15, and Jan. 7. Before that, former HHS Secretary **Alex Azar** renewed the PHE declaration in 2020 on Oct. 2, July 23, and April 21. The original PHE declaration was effective Jan. 27, 2020.



"Hospice and palliative care providers are still being severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically through staff and testing shortages," the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization said on the eve of the latest renewal. "Extending the public health emergency will provide essential support and flexibilities to hospices and palliative care providers as they continue to serve patients safely and effectively, while facing another record COVID-19 surge."