



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

September 22, 2022

The Covid Emergency “Cash Cow”

The Biden administration appears poised to again extend the Covid public health emergency for three more months despite low hospitalization rates and a less virulent virus.

The American Hospital Association sent a letter in March asking for the emergency to be extended. No wonder. Extending the emergency allows ineligible people to stay in Medicaid. It also gives hospitals a 20 percent increase in Medicare payments for every patient diagnosed with Covid. Thus, hospitals keep testing. Plus, hospitals get paid up to \$650 for a Covid test that would cost \$50 or less elsewhere. Covid has become a cash cow for hospitals – and a drain on taxpayers. It's time to declare the emergency over, because it is.

“Enough with the backdoor policymaking. It’s time to end the COVID public health emergency,” Margery Smelkinson and Leslie Bienen, Detroit Free Press, September 4, 2022: <https://bit.ly/3Uhhmsw>

“Hospitals are charging hundreds per COVID test. Will insurance premiums rise to compensate?” Hannah Norman and Jay Hancock, Kaiser Health News, FORTUNE, May 7, 2021: <https://bit.ly/3UmiNWz>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 48 states:
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cchfreedom.org / info@cchfreedom.org / 651-646-8935