

# **HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS**

## **Department of Human Resource Management Office of Health Benefits**

**September 4, 2009**

### **State Employee Flu Shot Program Begins for Flu Season**

Free flu vaccine once again will be available from now until the end of flu season at specific participating COVA Care, COVA Connect and COVA HDHP plan chain and independent retail pharmacies. In addition, individual agencies may make arrangements to have a local pharmacy that participates with the state plans come onsite to provide flu vaccine at no cost. There is no information available yet on H1N1 vaccine. We will provide details as developments occur. See the attached flyer for your use with employees.

**Pharmacy Program:** Any plan member, including employees, non-Medicare eligible retiree group members, covered spouses and dependents, may present a plan ID card to receive the flu vaccine at no cost. A list of pharmacies, flyers and a Q&A for each plan will be available on the DHRM Web site the week of September 7 at [www.dhrm.virginia.gov](http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov). Note the tabs with names of chains and independents. We will update the lists as changes occur.

- **For COVA Care:** Pharmacy chains and independents this year include CVS, Giant, K-Mart, Kroger, Rite Aid, Safeway, SuperValu, Ukrop's and independent pharmacies in EPIC and Leadernet, among others.
- **For COVA Connect:** CVS, Costco, Farm Fresh, K-Mart, Kroger, Rite Aid and Target, along with certain independent pharmacies.
- **For COVA HDHP:** CVS, Farm Fresh, Medicine Shoppe, Ukrop's and Walgreens, among others.

Plan members should also check with their local pharmacy to be sure it is participating in the program. The corporate offices of participating pharmacy chains will communicate to their store locations according to their specific corporate communications guidelines. Each pharmacy location sets up its own clinics and procedures, which may differ within the pharmacy chain.

**Agency Arrangements:** Agencies that wish to bring a pharmacy onsite to administer flu vaccine must follow the attached guidelines.

**Flu Shots under the Medical Benefit:** All COVA Care, COVA Connect and COVA HDHP members may receive flu vaccine at no cost in their doctor's office covered under the medical routine wellness benefit. Kaiser Permanente HMO plan members have access to free flu vaccine from their physician or at participating medical centers.

### **Dependent Eligibility Audit Packages Mailed Next Week**

Beginning September 8, the initial dependent eligibility audit packages will be mailed to all employees and non-Medicare eligible retirees with dependents. The package includes the initial audit notice, required affidavit signature form, eligibility definitions and frequently asked questions.

The Office of Health Benefits has received questions about distribution of dependent eligibility audit information to employees who have no access to a home mailing address. Contact [ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov](mailto:ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov) with information about any employees or non-Medicare eligible retirees at your agency in this situation. They will be sent an e-mail package as an exception to the standard procedure of mailing audit materials to home addresses. This exception is typically only made for employees who are away from home on a temporary assignment during the audit process. A valid e-mail address will be required and they must mail in the required affidavit signature form to the address noted on the affidavit since there will be no enclosed postage-paid envelope. Again, this is an exception for only individuals in these circumstances.

**Note Two Recent BES Enhancements**

**Reason Code 05 – Move Affecting Eligibility for Health Care Plan:** This BES reason code has been changed to accommodate moves affecting COVA Connect and is available to agencies. Agencies no longer need to send requests changing to or from COVA Connect to OHB for keying. Only the Out-of-Network option may be added or removed in conjunction with the move into or out of the COVA Connect area.

You may continue to use Reason Code 05 for moves affecting Kaiser enrollments.

**New Reason Code 79 – Non-Payment of Premium or Flex Deduction While on LWOP:** This new BES reason code is available to agencies and is used to handle a participant who fails to pay their health care premium or flexible reimbursement account contribution while on one of the following leaves:

Leave Code	Leave Description
17	LWOP – Educational
18	LWOP – Medical
09	LWOP – Personal
16	LWOP – Suspension Pending Investigation
03	LWOP – Suspension Violation / Standards of Conduct
19	LWOP – Workers Compensation

Use PSB301 and reason code 79 to waive a participant’s health care plan and membership. Use PSB200 and reason code 79 to change a participant’s flex amount to zero. For either transaction, enter the last day covered as the Event Date. BES will assign the Effective Date to the first of the month following the Event Date.

**REMINDER:** The new PSB100 transaction used to update contacts must be updated for **each** Agency / Group. We have had a few cases where only one of several groups within an agency has been updated. Please make sure your agency’s information is correct for each group.