

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS EXTRA

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

May 7, 2009

Attention: Important Open Enrollment Action Required!

Don't let employees risk losing their health benefits! Remind them now that amnesty for removing ineligible dependents from their health care coverage ends on May 15. Employees who remove ineligible dependents during Open Enrollment will not be penalized. However, employees covering dependents who do not meet eligibility criteria will face stiff penalties if they fail to act by the end of Open Enrollment. The State Health Benefits Program will conduct an audit of state health plans during the new plan year which begins on July 1. Ineligible dependents identified during the audit will be removed, and employees covering those dependents may face penalties, including suspension from the health benefits program for up to three years. Employees should visit EmployeeDirect or submit a completed enrollment form during Open Enrollment to remove dependents who are ineligible for coverage.

Communicate New COVA Connect E-Mail Address

Be sure to let employees know about the new COVA Connect e-mail address to receive feedback and comments from employees and non-Medicare-eligible retirees regarding the new Hampton Roads-area program. The e-mail address is covaconnect@dhrm.virginia.gov. Health plan members should contact their agency Benefits Administrator with questions. The e-mail address is for comments and input only. DHRM will not be providing responses to individual issues through this e-mail address. Any questions or concerns should be directed to ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov.