

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

March 2, 2010

Walgreens Out of COVA Connect Pharmacy Flu Shot Program

Due to contract issues, Walgreens Drug Stores will no longer participate with the state program that offers free flu shots to COVA Connect health plan members. This applies to both seasonal flu and H1N1 flu shots and vaccine. To find a COVA Connect pharmacy that participates in the program, see the pharmacy list at <http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/hbenefits/flushotinformation.html>. COVA Care and COVA HDHP members may still visit Walgreens for free flu shots.

ARRA Reminder

As discussed in BA Memos #09-09 and #10-01, eligibility for premium assistance was extended to include involuntary terminations of employment through February 28, 2010. This will include employees terminated within the eligibility period who get continued health plan coverage through a severance benefit. As an example, based on current guidance, an employee who is involuntarily terminated in February 2010, goes into the transitional severance period from March 2010 through February 2011, and is offered COBRA effective March 1, 2011, could be eligible for premium assistance since the actual termination occurred within the defined eligibility period (September 1, 2008, through February 28, 2010). Consequently, ARRA information should remain in the COBRA Election Notice for qualifying events through February 28, 2011.

In an effort to make this less confusing, the COBRA Election Notice has been updated to identify this type of situation in delineated sections of the Notice. A copy of the new notice is attached for your use, and referenced sections are highlighted for your review. It will also be available within the next week on the DHRM Web site. We recommend use of this notice for qualifying events in March 2010 or later.

We anticipate additional changes to ARRA eligibility and will keep you informed.