

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Vermont Health Access

March 26, 2014

Contact: Emily Yahr

Contact Phone Number: 802-343-8218

Contact E-mail Address: Emily.Yahr@state.vt.us

Vermont Health Connect Open Enrollment Ends March 31

WINOOSKI, VT – With less than a week remaining for Vermonters to sign up for coverage through Vermont Health Connect, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) will be expanding call center hours and using flexibility announced by the federal government to help get any Vermonter who has had trouble signing up into a health plan with a coverage start date that meets their needs.

DVHA Commissioner Mark Larson said, “Our message today is simple: Sign up. If you think you’ve missed a deadline or you are unsure about your options, log on and sign up. If you’ve had an issue with your application, call us. We will be working one-on-one with any Vermonter who has had a problem to get them the coverage they need.”

“This type of open enrollment is new in Vermont, so it is important for Vermonters to know that for many now is the last time to sign up for coverage until next fall. We expect the final days of open enrollment will be busy, so we encourage anyone who has yet to sign up or still needs to complete the process to do it now.”

Open enrollment is the time when Vermont Health Connect accepts applications from Vermonters looking for new health coverage, including individuals who are currently covered by Catamount and VHAP. Vermonters seeking coverage must enroll by March 31, unless they have a qualifying event such as having a baby, getting married or losing insurance coverage or qualify for Medicaid, a program in which individuals can enroll at any point.

To support Vermonters who are trying to complete their applications as the deadline nears, the call center will be open from 8am – 4pm on Saturday, March 29 and 11am – 5pm on Sunday, March 30. The call center will be open regularly scheduled hours, 8am – 8pm, on Monday, March 31.

Some Vermonters have had difficulty signing up or making changes to their coverage. Vermont Health Connect will work directly with those Vermonters to resolve their issues and get them the health plan and start date they need. Vermonters with questions or issues can call Vermont

Health Connect toll-free at 855-899-9600. Vermont Health Connect also accepts questions and comments by email at vthealthconnect@state.vt.us.

Thousands of Vermonters have found coverage during the open enrollment period, and more are expected to sign up through the end of March. More than 55,000 Vermonters have picked a health plan through Vermont Health Connect since open enrollment began in October and over 43,000 are fully enrolled in new coverage. Over 30,000 more Vermonters are covered by their employer and enrolled in a Vermont Health Connect plan directly through an insurance carrier.

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Vermont Health Connect is a marketplace that Vermonters can use to make side-by-side comparisons of private health plans, find financial help to lower their medical costs, and enroll – all in one place. Vermont Health Connect is also for individuals and families in Vermont to find out about and enroll in low cost or free public health programs.