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Department of Vermont Health Access

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Vermonters Can Now Pay Securely Online for Vermont Health Connect Plans

WINOOSKI, VT – Vermonters enrolling in health plans through Vermont Health Connect (VHC) can now pay their monthly premiums securely online, thanks to a system upgrade deployed over the weekend. The tens of thousands of Vermonters who have already enrolled, in addition to those newly signing up as open enrollment draws to a close, now have the option of paying monthly premiums by check or online with a debit card, credit card or direct deposit from a bank account.

Department of Vermont Health Access Commissioner Mark Larson said, "This is great news for all Vermonters using VHC to enroll in health plans. Paying online provides convenience for Vermonters, and we're pleased this functionality is now up and running. Our focus over the next month is to continue to enroll Vermonters through VHC."

In addition to online payment functions, the system upgrade deployed Friday night and Saturday included several enhancements, allowing for improved processing of applications by VHC staff and a better overall user experience. The online payment functions have already been used successfully by Vermonters who enrolled over the weekend.

The system upgrades come as many Vermonters are enrolling in health plans in advance of the end of open enrollment on March 31st. Vermonters whose 2013 coverage was extended through March 2014 need to sign up for a plan through VHC by March 15 to avoid a lapse in coverage. Vermonters with extended coverage include those on Catamount or VHAP and sole-proprietors who have yet to sign up for a new plan through VHC. Small businesses with extended plans should sign up for coverage for the rest of 2014 directly through Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT or MVP Health Care. Anyone who recently lost coverage from an employer, or is currently without insurance for any other reason, has until the end of March to select a VHC plan.

The 2014 open enrollment period for VHC closes this month. This is the last opportunity for many Vermonters to sign up for insurance through VHC until the fall unless they have a qualifying event such as getting married, having a child or losing insurance coverage.

There is no open enrollment period for Medicaid. Vermonters who qualify for free or low cost coverage through Medicaid can sign up through VHC at any point during the year.

Vermonters who do not have insurance coverage through a job or other source can enroll online at [VermontHealthConnect.gov](https://www.vermonthealthconnect.gov), toll-free by phone at 855-899-9600 or through the assistance of a Navigator or broker.

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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.