2023 Open Enrollment through Vermont Health Connect – Eight Things to Know

Open Enrollment is the time when you can enroll in a new health or dental insurance plan. Or switch the health plan you are on. Vermont Health Connect's Open Enrollment runs from November 1 – December 15, 2022, Vermonters can sign up for health and dental insurance that **begins January 1, 2023**. Open Enrollment continues for another month, allowing Vermonters to sign up between December 16, 2022 – January 15, 2023, for insurance that **begins February 1, 2023**.

Vermonters can learn about our state's health insurance marketplace by visiting www.VermontHealthConnect.gov, calling the Customer Support Center at 1-855-899-9600, or contacting trained, local professionals to help you through the Assister program.

Here are eight things to know:

- 1) Eligible Vermonters could get lower-cost health plans. The expanded health insurance subsidies have been immensely helpful for Vermonters. When the subsidies were first expanded, Vermonters saved triple the national average and saw their premiums cut in half. Over 90% of people who are enrolled through the health insurance marketplace qualify for financial help. Thousands of Vermonters now pay less than \$25 a month for coverage through the marketplace.
- 2) New this year! Families or family members with offers of employer insurance might be eligible for help. New rules mean more Vermonters who have access to health insurance through their jobs may get less expensive coverage through the marketplace. Now, more Vermonters whose employer-sponsored plans are expensive may benefit from subsidies. The new rule may make health insurance more affordable and within reach. Go to https://bit.ly/VHCfg to learn more.
- 3) Don't assume your income is too high to get lower costs. The American Rescue Plan Act gave more financial help to people who buy their own health insurance. With the Inflation Reduction Act, these expanded federal tax credits are extended through 2025 and help to make health plans more affordable. For 2023, eligible Vermonters in single plans with incomes up to \$118,000 and those in family plans with incomes up to \$333,000 may qualify for a tax credit. You can use this tax credit to lower your monthly premium. But you must sign up through Vermont Health Connect to get a tax credit.
- **4) Changing plans may help you save even more.** With financial help, some people may get lower premiums AND lower out-of-pocket costs when or if they change plans or metal levels. Want to learn more? Browse plan options and estimate how much you can save using the Plan Comparison Tool. Consider the Enhanced Silver 94, 87, 77, or 73

level plans. Eligible Vermonters can save money with these <u>cost-sharing reduction</u> <u>plans</u>.

- **5) Read your postal mail your renewal notice has important information.** Do you want to keep the plan you have now? You don't need to do anything. We will sign you up for the same plan you have now for next year. The renewed plan will start January 1, 2023. The help you get depends on the information in your file. Is your information with Vermont Health Connect up to date? Here's how to check
 - Online: Log into your Vermont Health Connect account, and report any changes.
 - **Phone**: Call us at 1-855-899-9600.
 - In-person: Use our Assister Directory to find help near you.

If not, you could get less in tax credits or pay higher monthly payments. You must tell us about any changes – address, income, persons in the household, dependents, or tax-filing status – to ensure subsidies coming to you are correct.

- 6) Your neighbors need you to help spread the word. It's a great time to look again at health insurance. Vermont has one of the highest rates in the country for people with health insurance. We accomplished this in part through our strong sense of community. Many Vermonters look out for their families, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow community members. If you share the message about Open Enrollment and the potential financial help, we can give even more Vermonters the opportunity to attain health and well-being without worrying as much about the cost of health insurance.
- 7) Direct enroll? Transfer your plan to the marketplace today. Do you buy insurance directly from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont? Or from MVP Health Care? You must transfer your plan to Vermont Health Connect to get tax credits.
- **8) It's best to sign up by December 15!** Ease your mind and treat yourself and get full-year coverage that starts January 1, 2023.

Whether you get insurance through the marketplace, are enrolled directly with an insurance company, or don't currently have insurance, find your next steps at www.VermontHealthConnect.gov. Or call 1-855-899-9600.

About Vermont's health insurance marketplace, Vermont Health Connect:

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), within the State of Vermont's Agency of Human Services, is responsible for administering Vermont's marketplace for health insurance. To learn more, visit the DVHA website or the Vermont Health Connect website