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# Annual Enrollment Notices & Disclosures

# Suffolk Public Schools
# 1/1/2026

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**www.ajg.com**

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# PATIENT PROTECTIONS DISCLOSURE

The Suffolk Public Schools Health Plan generally allows the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members.

For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.
You do not need prior authorization from Anthem or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact Anthem.

# WOMEN'S HEALTH & CANCER RIGHTS ACT

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 ("WHCRA"). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under the plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply:

POS 80/20 – Deductible ($500 individual, $1000 family), Coinsurance: 20%
HDHP – Deductible ($3,300 individual, $6,600 family), Coinsurance: 10%
POS 70/30 – Deductible ($1,500 individual, $3,000 family), Coinsurance: 30%

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, please call your Plan Administrator at 757-925-6754.



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# NEWBORNS' AND MOTHERS' HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).



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# PREMIUM ASSISTANCE UNDER MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren't eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won't be eligible for these premium assistance programs but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit **www.healthcare.gov**.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **www.insurekidsnow.gov** to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at **www.askebsa.dol.gov** or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

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**If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2025. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –**

| ALABAMA – Medicaid | ALASKA – Medicaid |
|---|---|
| Website: http://myalhipp.com/<br>Phone: 1-855-692-5447 | The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program<br>Website: http://myakhipp.com/<br>Phone: 1-866-251-4861<br>Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com<br>Medicaid Eligibility:<br>https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx |
| **ARKANSAS – Medicaid** | **CALIFORNIA – Medicaid** |
| Website: http://myarhipp.com/<br>Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447) | Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website:<br>http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp<br>Phone: 916-445-8322<br>Fax: 916-440-5676<br>Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov |
| **COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)** | **FLORIDA – Medicaid** |
| Health First Colorado Website:<br>https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/<br>Health First Colorado Member Contact Center:<br>1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711<br>CHP+: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus<br>CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711<br>Health Insurance Buy-In Program<br>(HIBI): https://www.mycohibi.com/<br>HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442 | Website:<br>https://www.flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/hipp/index.html<br>Phone: 1-877-357-3268 |



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| GEORGIA – Medicaid | INDIANA – Medicaid |
|---|---|
| GA HIPP Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp<br>Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1<br>GA CHIPRA Website:<br>https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra<br>Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2 | Health Insurance Premium Payment Program<br>All other Medicaid<br>Website: https://www.in.gov/medicaid/<br>http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/<br>Family and Social Services Administration<br>Phone: 1-800-403-0864<br>Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584 |
| **IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)** | **KANSAS – Medicaid** |
| Medicaid Website:<br>Iowa Medicaid \| Health & Human Services<br>Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366<br>Hawki Website:<br>Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa \| Health & Human Services<br>Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563<br>HIPP Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) \| Health & Human Services (iowa.gov)<br>HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562 | Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov/<br>Phone: 1-800-792-4884<br>HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660 |
| **KENTUCKY – Medicaid** | **LOUISIANA – Medicaid** |
| Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website:<br>https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx<br>Phone: 1-855-459-6328<br>Email: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov<br>KCHIP Website: https://kynect.ky.gov<br>Phone: 1-877-524-4718<br>Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms | Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp<br>Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or<br>1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP) |
| **MAINE – Medicaid** | **MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP** |
| Enrollment Website:<br>https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US<br>Phone: 1-800-442-6003<br>TTY: Maine relay 711<br>Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage:<br>https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms<br>Phone: 1-800-977-6740<br>TTY: Maine relay 711 | Website: https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa<br>Phone: 1-800-862-4840<br>TTY: 711<br>Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com |
| **MINNESOTA – Medicaid** | **MISSOURI – Medicaid** |
| Website:<br>https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/<br>Phone: 1-800-657-3672 | Website:<br>http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm<br>Phone: 573-751-2005 |
| **MONTANA – Medicaid** | **NEBRASKA – Medicaid** |
| Website:<br>http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP<br>Phone: 1-800-694-3084<br>Email: HHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov | Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov<br>Phone: 1-855-632-7633<br>Lincoln: 402-473-7000<br>Omaha: 402-595-1178 |



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| NEVADA – Medicaid | NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid |
|---|---|
| Medicaid Website: http://dhcfp.nv.gov<br>Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900 | Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program<br>Phone: 603-271-5218<br>Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 15218<br>Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov |
| **NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP** | **NEW YORK – Medicaid** |
| Medicaid Website:<br>http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/<br>Phone: 1-800-356-1561<br>CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392<br>CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html<br>CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711) | Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/<br>Phone: 1-800-541-2831 |
| **NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid** | **NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid** |
| Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/<br>Phone: 919-855-4100 | Website: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare<br>Phone: 1-844-854-4825 |
| **OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP** | **OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP** |
| Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org<br>Phone: 1-888-365-3742 | Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx<br>Phone: 1-800-699-9075 |
| **PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP** | **RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP** |
| Website: https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html<br>Phone: 1-800-692-7462<br>CHIP Website: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)<br>CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437) | Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/<br>Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or<br>401-462-0311 (Direct RIte Share Line) |
| **SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid** | **SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid** |
| Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov<br>Phone: 1-888-549-0820 | Website: http://dss.sd.gov<br>Phone: 1-888-828-0059 |
| **TEXAS – Medicaid** | **UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP** |
| Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program \| Texas Health and Human Services<br>Phone: 1-800-440-0493 | Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP)<br>Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/<br>Email: upp@utah.gov<br>Phone: 1-888-222-2542<br>Adult Expansion Website:<br>https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/<br>Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website:<br>https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/<br>CHIP Website: https://chip.utah.gov/ |



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| VERMONT– Medicaid | VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP |
|---|---|
| Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program \| Department of Vermont Health Access<br>Phone: 1-800-250-8427 | Website: https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select<br>https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs<br>Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924 |
| **WASHINGTON – Medicaid** | **WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP** |
| Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/<br>Phone: 1-800-562-3022 | Website: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/<br>http://mywvhipp.com/<br>Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700<br>CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447) |
| **WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP** | **WYOMING – Medicaid** |
| Website:<br>https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm<br>Phone: 1-800-362-3002 | Website:<br>https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/<br>Phone: 1-800-251-1269 |

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2025, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
**www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa**
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
**www.cms.hhs.gov**
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

### Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately seven minutes per respondent. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email ebsa.opr@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 1/31/2026)



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# HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES REMINDER

**Protecting Your Health Information Privacy Rights**
Suffolk Public Schools is committed to the privacy of your health information. The administrators of the Suffolk Public Schools (the "Plan") use strict privacy standards to protect your health information from unauthorized use or disclosure.

The Plan's policies protecting your privacy rights and your rights under the law are described in the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices. You may receive a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting Anne McCoy at annemccoy@spsk12.net or 757-925-6754.

# HIPAA SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

**Suffolk Public Schools Health Plan Notice of Your HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights**

Our records show that you are eligible to participate in the Suffolk Public Schools Health Plan (to actually participate, you must complete an enrollment form and pay part of the premium through payroll deduction).

A federal law called HIPAA requires that we notify you about an important provision in the plan - your right to enroll in the plan under its "special enrollment provision" if you acquire a new dependent, or if you decline coverage under this plan for yourself or an eligible dependent while other coverage is in effect and later lose that other coverage for certain qualifying reasons.

**Loss of Other Coverage (Excluding Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program).** If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while other health insurance or group health plan coverage is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

**Loss of Coverage for Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program.** If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while Medicaid coverage or coverage under a state children's health insurance program is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' coverage ends under Medicaid or a state children's health insurance program.

**New Dependent by Marriage, Birth, Adoption, or Placement for Adoption.** If you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your new dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.



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**Eligibility for Premium Assistance Under Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program** – If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or through a state children's health insurance program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' determination of eligibility for such assistance.

To request special enrollment or to obtain more information about the plan's special enrollment provisions, contact Anne McCoy, Benefits Coordinator, 757-925-6754.

# NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE

### Important Notice from Suffolk Public Schools

### About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

**Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Suffolk Public Schools and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.**

**There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:**

1. **Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.**
2. **Suffolk Public Schools has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the medical plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.**



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### When Can You Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

### What Happens to Your Current Coverage if You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Suffolk Public Schools coverage will not be affected.

| SPS Pharmacy (SPS Health Pharmacy) | Tier 1 Copay | Tier 2 Copay | Tier 3 Copay | Tier 4 Copay |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to a 30-day medication supply | $3 | $20 | The greater of $35 or 10% coinsurance with a $100 maximum | The greater of $35 or 10% coinsurance with a $100 maximum |
| Maintenance 90-day supply | $6 | $30 | The greater of $45 or 10% coinsurance with a $300 maximum | Not Applicable |
| Prescription drug Home Delivery | $6 | $30 | The greater of $45 or 10% coinsurance with a $300 maximum | Not Applicable |

| Level 1 Anthem PREFERRED Pharmacy | Tier 1 Copay | Tier 2 Copay | Tier 3 Copay | Tier 4 Copay |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to a 30-day medication supply | $20 | $50 | The greater of $70 or 20% coinsurance with a $200 maximum | The greater of $70 or 20% coinsurance with a $200 maximum |
| Prescription drug Home Delivery | $60 | $150 | The greater of $220 or 20% coinsurance with a $600 maximum | Not Applicable |
| **ALL OTHER Participating Retail Pharmacies** | **Tier 1 Copay** | **Tier 2 Copay** | **Tier 3 Copay** | **Tier 4 Copay** |
| Up to a 30-day medication supply | $30 | $60 | The greater of $220 or 20% coinsurance with a $600 maximum | The greater of $80 or 20% coinsurance with a $200 maximum |

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Suffolk Public Schools coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back.

### When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Suffolk Public Schools and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.



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**For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage…**

Contact the person listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Suffolk Public Schools changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

**For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage…**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage Notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**



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# COBRA GENERAL NOTICE

**Model General Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights**
**(For use by single-employer group health plans)**

**** Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA****

## Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

**You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage.** For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

## What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.



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If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to [*enter name of employer sponsoring the Plan*], and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

**When is COBRA continuation coverage available?**

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;
- Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

**For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: Suffolk Public Schools Human Resources Department.**



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**How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?**

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

***Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage***

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage.

***Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage***

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

**Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at **www.healthcare.gov/**.



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**Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?**

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period[1] to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you.

**If you have questions**

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit www.dol.gov/ebsa. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit **www.healthcare.gov**.

**Keep your Plan informed of address changes**

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

**Plan contact information**

Suffolk Public Schools, Anne McCoy, Benefits Coordinator, 100 North Main St, Suffolk, VA 23434, 757-922-9200

[1] https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/when-does-medicare-coverage-start



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