

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource
Management
Office of Health Benefits*

August 12, 2020

New Guidance Due To Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak Extends Deadlines for Extended Coverage/COBRA

As part of the National Emergency Relief due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), a joint committee comprised of multiple Federal Agencies (the “Agencies”), has issued a Joint Notice that provides a temporary extension of certain timeframes as it relates to Extended Coverage/COBRA Beneficiaries’ Election Period and Premium Payments.

In response to this new guideline, OHB will send participants currently enrolled in COBRA a notice explaining the details of the new rule. Agencies should send the attached notice to any participants whose coverage was terminated since January 1, 2020 and were eligible for COBRA but chose not to elect coverage at that time.

The notices to currently enrolled COBRA participants will be mailed beginning on August 13.

DHRM has updated the Extended Coverage (COBRA) Election Notice to reflect the above referenced information, which will remain in effect until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Use the [revised Extended Coverage \(COBRA\) Election Notice](#) until further notice.

Qualified Beneficiaries should direct questions and/or concerns to their Benefits Administrator. If you have questions, contact the Office of Health Benefits at ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-3642 in Richmond or 1-888-OHB-4414 (888-642-4414).

Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to the Office of Health Benefits mailbox at ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov