HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits

September 29, 2021

State Health Benefits Unveils 2021-22 Flu Shot Program

It's the time of year for getting a flu shot to protect yourself and those you love. We are fighting on two fronts in 2021 – influenza and COVID-19. Please encourage employees to get a flu shot and COVID-19 vaccination (visit vaccinate.virginia.gov).

The more people who receive the flu shot, the higher our community immunity levels will be, and there will be less pressure on the healthcare system from seasonal flu and pneumonia. This will ensure available capacity to meet the needs placed on the healthcare system by COVID-19 variants.

Once again, DHRM and Capitol Square Healthcare are partnering to provide two free flu shot drive-thru clinics for COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members at John Tyler Community College in Midlothian on October 15 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Flu shots will be given in a covered parking garage. A photo ID, plan ID card and wearing a mask <u>are required</u> to receive the flu vaccine.

During the 2021-22 flu season, state health plan members may again get a free flu shot at pharmacies participating in their health plan's network.

- **COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members** also may receive shots at no cost from network physicians' offices and other participating providers.
- **Kaiser Permanente HMO members** must go to a participating Kaiser medical center.
- **Optima Health members** will receive flu shots at no cost from network participating pharmacies. To find participating pharmacies, call the number on the back of your ID card.
- **Capitol Square Healthcare** in downtown Richmond will offer free shots onsite to COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members beginning in early October ***by appointment only***. Kaiser Permanente members, Optima Health members, TRICARE members, waived and wage employees pay for the vaccine. <u>Members should call the clinic in advance for an appointment at (844) 342-1791</u>. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is also available by appointment.

Visit www.dhrm.virginia.gov/healthcoverage/flushotinformation to find participating providers, questions and answers on each plan and a flyer to distribute to employees. <u>It is important that plan members call ahead to be sure the pharmacy is participating in the program and flu shots are available</u>. An appointment may be required.

See the flu shot guidelines for agencies that wish to coordinate flu shots onsite with participating pharmacies. <u>DHRM recommends that due to COVID-19, agencies choosing to offer flu shot clinics with participating pharmacies strongly consider drive through or walk up options rather than holding onsite flu shot clinics.</u> Again, be sure that the pharmacy is participating in the Commonwealth's program before scheduling a clinic.

A pharmacy must file in-network flu shot claims through its online system. If plan members are denied coverage for the flu shot, they should ask the pharmacist to call the telephone number on the back of their ID card. COVA Care and COVA HDHP ID cards have a Pharmacy Questions number, and the COVA HealthAware cards have a Pharmacy number.

While members may receive a flu shot at a non-network pharmacy, coverage will be at the out-of-network benefit level. This means they will likely have to file the claim themselves and will be responsible for any costs over the allowable charge.

Getting to Know Your Benefits Brochure Updated for 2021

State agencies now have another resource to use with new and current employees concerning their state health benefits. The "Getting to Know Your Benefits" brochure has been updated to include all health plan choices and programs currently available to plan members, along with the latest contact information for assistance. To view or download the brochure, visit https://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/getting-to-know-your-benefits-92021.pdf

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