

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource
Management
Office of Health Benefits*

September 9, 2019

The Commonwealth's Flu Shot Program Launches

During the 2019-2020 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 flu 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 Richmond will offer free shots onsite to COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members. Kaiser Permanente members, Optima Health members, TRICARE members, waived and wage employees pay for the vaccine.
- Capitol Square Healthcare will also administer flu shots for the CommonHealth program at state agencies in and around Capitol Square.

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

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 COVA HealthAware cards show the Aetna Health Concierge 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.

See the attached flu shot guidelines for agencies that wish to coordinate flu shots onsite with participating pharmacies. Again, be sure that the pharmacy is participating in the Commonwealth's program before scheduling a clinic.

Remember Two Deadlines on September 30

- Employees who were enrolled in a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) during the last plan year (July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019) have until September 30 to file claims for covered services during that plan year. If there are any remaining funds in employees' FSA(s) and claims are not filed during the grace period that ends on September 30, those funds will be lost. Any remaining funds cannot be carried over into the new plan year.
- If members participated in a health and wellness incentive program under ActiveHealth prior to the new plan year that started on July 1, such as diabetes, asthma/COPD and/or high blood pressure incentives, they have until September 30 to transition to programs with their current health plan. If they fail to contact their current plan, they may be required to re-enroll in the program(s).

You may send inquiries to the Office of Health Benefits mailbox at ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov