

Vermont Health Connect Update

Commissioner Mark Larson
Department of Vermont Health Access



Open Enrollment: Individual/Family Plans

- Open Enrollment runs through March 2014
- For coverage that starts on the 1st of the month, pick a plan by the 15th and pay by the 31st of the prior month

Pick Your Plan	By January 15
Pay Your Invoice	By January 31
Start Your Plan	February 1

- Starting this year, most Vermonters will be penalized for each month they go without health insurance

Number of Vermonters who have picked an individual or family plan to date: ~24,000



About 65,000 Vermonters are affected by federally-mandated health care reforms under the Affordable Care Act come Jan. 1. With the bumpy rollout of Vermont Health Connect (VHC) additional options were announced to ensure Vermonters could take advantage of VHC plans despite issues with the website and that no Vermonter saw a lapse in coverage. This chart shows how Vermonters will take advantage of those options.

Catamount/VHAP/Individual

About 18,000 Vermonters currently on Catamount, VHAP or who purchase insurance as individuals can sign up for coverage today through VHC, and if they do so by Dec. 23, they can be enrolled in a VHC plan for January 2014. Many will qualify for financial assistance through VHC. If they don't sign up through VHC for January coverage, their current coverage will be automatically extended for up to 3 months.

Employees Enrolling through VHC as Individuals

About 800 Vermonters work for small businesses that will no longer offer coverage in 2014. These employees have until Dec. 23 to sign up through VHC for coverage beginning Jan. 1. Many will qualify for financial assistance.

Employees Enrolling through VHC

About 3,500 Vermonters who work for small businesses that chose to enroll through VHC will have their 2013 coverage extended into 2014 until the premium processing functions for small businesses are operational.

Sole Proprietors

About 7,200 Vermonters who currently have insurance as sole proprietors or single-entity businesses can sign up now through VHC. Many will qualify for financial assistance and are encouraged to sign up through VHC before the Dec. 23 for Jan. 1 coverage. If these Vermonters do not sign up by Dec. 23, their current plans will be extended for up to 3 months.

Employees Extending 2013 Plans

About 5,800 Vermonters who work for small businesses are having their 2013 plans extended for up to 3 months after their employer took advantage of that extension option announced by the Governor in October.

Employees Enrolled in a VHC Plan for 2014

About 29,200 Vermonters who work for small businesses will be enrolled in a VHC plan for all of 2014. Two-thirds of these employees were directly enrolled by their employer with either Blue Cross or MVP under additional enrollment options announced by the Governor in October. The remaining 1/3 will be mapped to the plan that most closely resembles their current coverage.

Questions?

- Toll-Free Call Center – (855)899-9600
 - **Update:** Bringing in new staff and establishing an overflow center to meet increased demand
- Email: VTHealthConnect@state.vt.us
- Insurance Carriers:
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont: (800)255-4550
 - MVP Health Care: (800)825-5687
 - Delta Dental: (800)832-5700

Strengthening IT Implementation

The State of Vermont will look at the implementation of Vermont Health Connect to strengthen the State's management of information technology projects moving forward.

The overall goal is to answer central questions such as:

- How can the SoV change its approach, staffing, or management structure going forward to improve implementation of future projects?
- What specific lessons learned should be incorporated into ongoing and future projects to reduce risks, improve implementation, and ensure success?

Strengthening IT Implementation: 2 Parts

- **An independent evaluation conducted by a third party** with prior experience in information technology projects of this magnitude. The independent evaluator will gather information about the VHC roll-out through interviews and other mechanisms. They will produce findings and recommendations for improvement, as well as information about what the State is doing well. The evaluator's draft findings and recommendations will be shared with the public with an opportunity for input.
- The State is working to strengthen the management of IT efforts across AHS by working with Gartner to **improve the project management process and capacity**.
 - Increasing management capacity at DVHA by providing assistance from Secretary of Commerce, Lawrence Miller, who has a background in project management in the private sector.