



ATU LOCAL 1181-1061
MEDICAL BENEFITS UPDATE
May 8, 2020

New York State Department of Financial Services and Governor Cuomo Announce Special Enrollment Period for Uninsured New Yorkers, as Novel Coronavirus Cases Climb

Because you have lost your benefits, NY State of Health, together with the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), announced that New Yorkers will have a special enrollment period available to New Yorkers during which eligible individuals will be able to enroll in insurance coverage through NY State of Health, New York's official health plan marketplace and directly through insurers. This step is being taken in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to further protect the public health of New Yorkers. NY State of Health, DFS and New York State health insurers, are taking this action due to the exceptional nature of the public health emergency posed by COVID-19, so that individuals do not avoid seeking testing or medical care for fear of cost.

In addition, anyone who lost medical benefits due to lay-off or furlough in New York State, is automatically eligible for coverage under the NYSOH / New York Marketplace Exchange. There is a two-month (60 days) Special Enrollment Period for such individuals.

Also, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a new directive by the State Department of Financial Services requiring New York health insurers to waive cost sharing associated with testing for novel coronavirus including emergency room, urgent care and office visits. The Governor also announced New Yorkers receiving Medicaid coverage will not be expected to pay a co-pay for any testing related to COVID-19. These actions will help ensure that cost does not serve as a barrier to access to COVID-19 testing for any New Yorker.

As always, consumers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health on-line at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, by phone at 855-355-5777 and working with enrollment assistors.