



Anthem Small Group Updates

BenefitMall would like to share the below updates on behalf of Anthem.

Anthem Providing Additional Opportunities for Members to Stay Covered

Special Enrollment Period through July 31 for an 8/1 Effective Date

Anthem will provide both Fully Insured and Self-funded groups, excluding Life and Disability, an option to offer a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to employees who previously did not elect to enroll in coverage at the time of open enrollment. This Group Special Enrollment Period will last from June 8, 2020 to July 31, 2020 and is available to both Large and Small Groups. Coverage would be effective no later than August 1, 2020. State eligibility guidelines will apply. Employers should consult their legal counsel regarding the tax treatment of employee coverage elections made through this SEP.

Plan Downgrade Option Available for 7/1 and 8/1 Effective Dates

Anthem will also allow currently covered employees to switch to a lower-priced medical plan when one is offered. This option is available for July 1, 2020 and August 1, 2020 effective dates. Anthem will not allow currently covered employees to switch to a more expensive plan absent a qualifying event as described in the benefits booklet or certificate or as mandated by HIPAA.

Extending Flexibility on Eligibility Requirements Until 9/30

Anthem is relaxing the requirement for employees to be actively working in order to be eligible for coverage through September 30, 2020 as long as the monthly premium is received. This applies to employees that were laid-off, furloughed, or moved to part-time. Coverage must be offered on a uniform, non-discriminatory basis to all employees and employee premium contributions must be the same or less than what they were prior to the layoffs. This flexibility was set to expire on July 31, 2020, but in an effort to keep members covered Anthem is extending it to September 30.

Read the latest [COVID-19 FAQ](#).

Supporting Return-to-the-Workplace Strategy with Sydney Care

Sydney Care offers easy and effective tools to help fight the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. From its symptom checker to expert care from real doctors, it delivers an end-to-end solution that can help employees assess their health and help you make decisions to make your workplace safer. Anthem is expanding the Sydney Care digital ecosystem to meet your needs by introducing the NEW Daily COVID-19 Check-In. This new feature:

- Asks questions based on CDC symptom guidelines
- Delivers a turnkey assessment solution that is easy to implement
- Supports a safer entry into the workplace by enabling your employees to verify their health status every day
- Features a user-friendly interface that allows employees to quickly enter information about their health status
- Offers a direct, in-app connection to doctors so employees can access care right away

Learn more about Sydney Care [here](#). The [Workplace Response Chart](#) will assist employers in determining the steps to take depending on each of their employee's unique situations.

Anthem Blue Cross Accelerates Payments and Support to Hospitals, Medical Groups & Doctors in Response to COVID-19 Financial Pressures

Anthem has accelerated more than \$600 million in payments to support hospitals, medical groups, and doctors who are on the frontlines providing COVID-19 treatment and supplementing critical services in communities across the state.

This effort is part of Anthem's ongoing commitment to the whole health of the communities and the providers who care for them. Anthem is collaborating with safety net providers who provide important services for some of California's most vulnerable populations. Some of those actions include:

- Directing more than \$4 million in advance incentive payments to 54 federally qualified health centers to increase quality and telehealth capabilities for some of California's most underserved populations.
- Distributing 435 telehealth and digital solutions kiosks for safety-net health centers to use with their entire patient population.
- Collaborating with safety-net health centers to mail 1,000 telehealth kits to high-risk members.

Anthem and Anthem Foundation Pledge \$50M Aimed at Impacting Social Injustice and Health Inequities

Anthem and the Anthem Foundation have pledged \$50 million over the next five years focused on directly impacting racial injustice, strengthening our communities, and addressing health inequities. Anthem is dedicating funding to support community partners that will work to help revive and rebuild neighborhoods and the communities served across the country in several ways:

- Anthem will be working with 4,000 nonprofits across the country focused on health opportunities, economic development, and job creation.
- Anthem will be expanding its associate giving opportunity by providing a 1:1 match for contributions to the following organizations: National Urban League, United Negro College Fund (UNCF), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), Race Forward, and United Way.
- Anthem will engage in deeper and meaningful activities to address health disparities and racial injustices in our communities. And through the Dollars for Doers Program employees will be able to raise additional funds for a nonprofit of their choice.

As always, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please reach out to your BenefitMall Sales Team.

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