

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR COVID-19 SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs) for COVID-19 and the COVID Relief Bill (American Rescue Plan)

District of Columbia COVID-19 SEP:

Exceptional circumstance SEPs will be available in the Individual/Family and SHOP marketplaces, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), under the following conditions:

- These exceptional circumstance special enrollment periods are available through the last day of the DC Health Link Individual & Family 2021 Open Enrollment Period (January 31), unless the District of Columbia COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), as declared by the Mayor, is still in place on that date, in which case the SEP is available until end of the month in which the PHE ends.
- Effective Date of Coverage - The effective date of coverage shall be the first day of the month in which the individual or employee selects a plan or first day of the month following plan selection, at the option of the qualified individual or employee. If enrolling in family coverage, dependents will have the same effective date as the enrolling individual or employee.

If the District's current PHE is not extended, the COVID-19 SEP will expire May 31, 2021.

By State for the Individual and Family Marketplaces (IVL) ¹

- April 30, 2021 – ID
- May 15, 2021 – VT
- May 23, 2021 – MA
- July 16, 2021 – MN
- August 15, 2021 – States using Healthcare.gov, CO, CT, MD, NV, PA, RI, and WA
- November 30, 2021 – NJ
- December 31, 2021 – CA, NY

¹ National Academy for State Health Policy, "Federal and State Special Enrollment Periods Increase Access to Insurance Coverage," March 12, 2021. Available at <https://www.nashp.org/federal-and-state-special-enrollment-periods-increase-access-to-insurance-coverage/>.

DC Health Link Data on SEP Usage

Individual and Family Marketplace

A total of **1,388** people have enrolled in coverage from February 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 (since open enrollment ended).

Comparison of enrollments over time by age:

| AGE GROUP | Open Enrollment 2021 Nov 1, 2020 to Jan 31, 2021 | SEP 2021 Feb 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 | SEP 2019 Feb 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019 |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| 0-34 | 61% | 61% | 59% |
| 35-54 | 30% | 30% | 31% |
| 55+ | 9% | 9% | 10% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Small Business (SHOP) Marketplace

A total of **815** people have enrolled in coverage using the COVID SEP from January 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021.

Comparison of enrollment over time by age:

| AGE GROUP | COVID SEP Jan 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 | NON-COVID SEP Jan 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 |
|------------------|--|--|
| 0-34 | 59% | 67% |
| 35-54 | 31% | 27% |
| 55+ | 10% | 6% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% |