



Updates



DC Health Link's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

We encourage you and your clients to continue checking our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) page](#) for the latest information. This page includes:

- An updated summary of how DC Health Link health insurance companies are covering Coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnosis and care;
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates from DC Health Link;
- Information on enrolling consumers now; and
- Links to other local and federal Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources.

If you have questions, we encourage you to contact us using our [online contact form](#). You can also reach us by phone at [\(855\) 532-5465](#) / TTY: 711 Monday through Friday from 8am–6pm. Due to the high volume of calls, we encourage you to contact us online if you're able.

Small Business Open Enrollment Extension

As a reminder, DC Health Link is extending the January Small Business marketplace Employer open enrollment eligibility rules for employers seeking to newly offer coverage for all of the 2020 calendar year. This means small businesses can start offering coverage, even if they can't meet minimum contribution and participation requirements.

This extension is for a limited time only. Employers that take advantage of this flexibility during the 2020 plan year will need to either meet the minimum participation and minimum contribution requirements for the 2021 plan year, or transition to a January 1 renewal date. You can learn more about enrollment flexibility in the [Board resolution](#).

Victims of Domestic Violence Claiming the Premium Tax Credit

Normally, married consumers must file their taxes jointly with their spouse to qualify for the premium tax credit. However, the IRS offers an exception for victims of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment. Applicants who live apart from their spouses can apply for tax credits on their own and file their taxes as married filing separately. To avoid repaying the credit during reconciliation, they need to certify on their federal tax return that they are in a domestic abuse or spousal abandonment situation.

The regulatory definition of domestic abuse is very broad and inclusive: physical, psychological, sexual, emotional, including efforts to control, isolate, humiliate, intimidate,

or undermine the person's ability to reason independently. Additionally, depending on the circumstances, abuse of the person's child or another family member living in the household can be considered abuse of the person. All the facts and circumstances are considered in determining whether an individual is abused, including the effects of alcohol or drug abuse by the victim's spouse. Spousal abandonment occurs if, after considering all facts and circumstances, the taxpayer is unable to locate his or her spouse after reasonable diligence.

Due to the sensitivity and complexity of the situation, the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority can support you through the enrollment process. We want to make sure that your clients' tax credits are applied correctly and that they receive the support they need.

Enrollment Deadlines



Unsure of DC Health Link small business deadlines? Use this [tool](#) to enter a coverage effective date and get a list of important dates for new and renewing groups. You can even print the deadlines with the click of a button.

[SHOP DEADLINES TOOL](#)

References and Resources



Check out our Broker Tools

DC Health Link has guides for Brokers with step-by-step instructions.

[BROKER TOOLS](#)

Missed the previous Broker News?

Visit our newsroom and catch up on previous editions of this newsletter.

[NEWSROOM](#)

Trained Expert Relations

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