



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
Michelle Pizzi O'Brien, Director of Human Resources

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Newton Retirees and Eligible Spouses
FROM: Michelle Pizzi O'Brien, Director of Human Resources
RE: Fiscal Year 2023 Health and Dental Open Enrollment
DATE: April 29, 2022

Annual open enrollment for health and dental insurance for all City of Newton retirees and eligible spouses will be held **May 4, 2022 – May 25, 2022**.

If you are currently enrolled in any of the City's plans and DO NOT wish to make any changes, NO ACTION IS REQUIRED.

FIRST POST COVID IN-PERSON HEALTH AND BENEFITS FAIR

The City of Newton is holding its first in-person ***Employee and Retiree Health and Benefits Fair*** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Health and Benefits Fair will be held on **Thursday, May 19, 2022**, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall War Memorial. We will be taking as many precautions as possible to ensure a safe yet informative event. We hope to see you there! Masks are not required at this time, but the City of Newton supports all those who choose to wear a face mask.

MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY

If you are 65 or over, you are required to enroll in Medicare A and B. If you are not eligible for Medicare, valid proof is required to remain enrolled in the City's health plan. Please contact Medicare 3 months prior to your 65th birthday. Upon receipt of your Medicare Card please contact the Human Resources Department to discuss your options.

HEALTH PLANS

Under age 65/Not Medicare eligible:

If you and/or your spouse are under the age of 65 or are not eligible for Medicare, this is an opportunity for you to review the plans offered and determine which one best fits your needs. The City of Newton currently offers three plans through Harvard Pilgrim (HPHC) and Tufts Health Plan. These plans are HPHC HMO, Tufts EPO and Tufts PPO. It is important to note that Tufts and Harvard have merged but this will not impact your coverage. The rates for all plans are increasing by 4.0% as of July 1, 2022.

Over age 65/Medicare eligible:

If you and/or your spouse are over 65 and are Medicare eligible, this is your opportunity to enroll in Tufts Medicare Complement. Open enrollment for Tufts Medicare Preferred and Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare HMO Blue are held in the fall. To enroll in Tufts Medicare Complement, please complete an enrollment form for that plan and a disenrollment form for your old plan, if applicable.

All forms and benefit summaries can be found on the City of Newton Retiree Benefits website at: newtonma.gov/openenroll. If you are unable to access the forms online, please contact our Benefits staff at **617-796-1262.**

Guardian Dental Plan

The City offers a retiree dental plan through Guardian Dental. There is no increase in dental insurance rates for FY23. Please visit the Human Resources Department website for more information regarding this plan.

NewtonCanaRx

NewtonCanaRx is an international mail order prescription drug program that is available to eligible City employees, retirees, and their dependents. This cost savings plan allows you to get brand named prescription drugs at a **\$0 copayment**. *NewtonCanaRx* is a voluntary plan that ships brand named prescriptions directly to your home at no cost to you.

For a list of all available medications and all forms please see www.NewtonCanaRx.com. *NewtonCanaRx* does not replace your current prescription drug benefit plan.

Changes/Additions/Terminations

To enroll in, change or terminate your benefits, you must complete the appropriate enrollment form for that plan. All enrollment forms and benefit information are available on the Human Resources Department [website](#). Please note that if you are enrolling in family health or dental coverage, you will be required to provide copies of your marriage certificate for your spouse and/or a birth certificates or proof of adoption/custody for your children.

All enrollment/change forms must be received in the Human Resources Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. All changes or terminations to your health insurance plan will become effective on July 1, 2022.

Again, if you are currently enrolled in one of the City's health insurance plans and do not wish to make any changes, no action is required.

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