

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: Dec. 18, 2020 Contact: Meghan McMartin Phone: 208.991.4911 Email: Media@YourHealthIdaho.org

Deadline to Get Health Insurance Extended

Idahoans have until December 31 to get covered for 2021

Today, for the first time ever, the Your Health Idaho Board of Directors voted to extend the Open Enrolment deadline. Idahoans now have until Dec. 31, 2020, to sign up for health insurance coverage that begins Jan. 1, 2021.

Your Health Idaho saw the largest single-day enrollment since 2018 on Tuesday, Dec. 15, the original deadline date. This increased activity coupled with ongoing impacts from the coronavirus pandemic spurred Your Health Idaho to extend the deadline.

"An unprecedented year calls for unprecedented measures," said Your Health Idaho Chairman of the Board, Stephen Weeg. "Given the challenges faced by Idahoans in 2020 and the renewed need for comprehensive health insurance, we hope that by extending the deadline a few more weeks, every Idahoan will have access to the coverage they need for the coming year."

The deadline for Idahoans to apply for the monthly health insurance tax credit has also been extended to Dec. 31. The tax credit, which acts like an instant discount to reduce monthly premium payments, is based on income, household size, and other factors. In 2020, more than 80 percent of Your Health Idaho customers received a tax credit, and one in three paid nothing for their coverage each month.

"One of our guiding principles at Your Health Idaho is 'Do the Right Thing' which may seem simple in theory, but often doing what's right can be a complicated process," said Your Health Idaho Executive Director, Pat Kelly. "We believe strongly that extending the deadline and giving Idahoans every opportunity to enroll is absolutely the right thing to do in 2020."

Your Health Idaho has extended hours to keep up with increased demand. The Customer Support Center will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (MT) through December, with some exception for holidays. Detailed business hours and contact options can be found online at <u>YourHealthIdaho.org</u>.

"I urge every interested Idahoan to explore their options and not wait until the last minute to sign up," said Kelly. "This really is the last opportunity to get covered for 2021, and I would hate for anyone to miss out on the peace of mind that comes with having health insurance."

Idahoans who want health insurance coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2021, must enroll by Thursday, Dec. 31, and make their first premium payment as soon as possible.



For Help Enrolling

- Visit <u>YourHealthIdaho.org</u> to shop for plans and enroll
- Contact Your Health Idaho by phone at 1-855-944-3246 or submit a <u>Support Request</u> online
- Visit <u>YourHealthIdaho.org/find-help</u> to get free, expert advice from a Your Health Idaho-certified insurance agent or broker

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Your Health Idaho was established by state law in 2013 to provide an online marketplace where Idaho families and small businesses can go to compare and purchase health insurance. Your Health Idaho is governed by a 19-member board authorized by the Idaho Legislature to set the rules and regulations for implementing a state-based health insurance exchange.

For more information, please visit <u>www.YourHealthIdaho.org</u>. You can also check us out on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.