

Benefits Updates – July 18, 2022

State Group Insurance Program Updates from 2022 Legislative Session

The last legislative session produced important changes that started to take effect on July 1, 2022:

Eligible Former Employee Benefits – Effective July 1, 2022, the State Group Insurance Program (Program) will begin offering health benefits to Eligible Former Employees (EFE). EFE means a former state officer or employee who was enrolled in the Program for at least six cumulative years, and who was enrolled at the time of his or her separation from employment. EFEs retain the ability to reenroll in the Program for a period of 24 months from their separation date. Separation from employment must occur on or after July 1, 2022. Other Personal Services (OPS) and seasonal workers are not eligible for EFE coverage.

More information on EFE Benefits eligibility, enrollment, premiums, and FAQ is available at mybenefits.myflorida.com.

Retroactive Approval of Telehealth Claims – The Division of State Group Insurance has provided notice to its health plans to retroactively cover telehealth services received by covered members during the period of June 27, 2021, through January 1, 2022. The health plans will immediately begin reprocessing telehealth claims for payment to the service providers and/or physicians, with no cost share assessed to the member.

Members who paid out-of-pocket expenses for telehealth services during the period of June 27, 2021, through January 1, 2022, should work directly with their service provider and/or physician to obtain reimbursement for all out-of-pocket expenses for these claims.

To contact your provider, view the contact information listing or simply call the number on the back of your health insurance card.

Retirement Changes – FRS Investment Employer Contribution Increase

House Bill 5007 (**Chapter No. 2022-159**, Laws of Florida) changed employer FRS contribution rates, effective July 1, 2022.

For **FRS Investment** plan members, employer contributions were increased by 3%, effective July 1, 2022. This change does not affect the 3% contribution employee rate towards the plan. For example, Regular Class members will see their total employee and employer contributions increase from 6.30% to 9.30%.

As a reminder, all FRS members receive **free and unbiased** financial planning and counseling services when calling the **MyFRS Financial Guidance Line** at 1-866-446-9377.

To learn more about this change, read the most recent Investment Plan Quarterly Newsletter and check out all other publications available through the MyFRS website.

Back to School Sales Tax Holiday: July 25 – August 7, 2022

Consumers can purchase qualifying back-to-school supplies exempt from tax from Monday, July 25 through Sunday, August 7. For a list of qualifying items and FAQ for consumers, visit Florida DOR's website or call their hotline at (800) 352-3671.