



May 22, 2020

Dear University of Nebraska student,

You are receiving this email as a voluntary participant in the 2019-20 student health insurance plan provided by UnitedHealthcare StudentResources. This message is to let you know that the enrollment period for student health insurance for the 2020-21 school year begins mid July 2020 and to share details of the 2020-21 plan.

All voluntary enrollment will be handled through the UHCSR student enrollment portal. You may visit <https://uhcsr.com/unomaha> to complete your voluntary insurance enrollment.

This is a challenging time for the healthcare industry, and the University of Nebraska system, like most colleges and universities across the country, has faced the increasingly difficult task of managing dramatically rising student health premiums.

While we are not required to make our health insurance plan available to voluntary participants, the University's goal has been to sponsor a competitive plan that gives students another option to consider when thinking about their health insurance needs.

As we began our planning for 2020-21, we knew there would be no easy choices given the challenges facing our plan: declining enrollment, a growing number of high-dollar claims, and significantly higher claims spending than premiums collected.

We convened a University of Nebraska system-wide committee, made up of 26 students, faculty and staff from across the four campuses, to carefully weigh and debate what might be considered a menu of bad options. We also engaged an independent consultant to analyze our plan, compare our plan to our peers', and recommend potential options going forward.

After evaluating all the options, we have decided to again make our student health plan available to voluntary participants in 2020-21. However, the system-wide committee came to the difficult recommendation to implement a "split premium" rate to price voluntary participants differently than those students who are required to purchase health insurance through the University. Voluntary participants make up about 20% of our student plan's population but account for 35% of claims spending, a trend that impacts all participants under a single premium rate structure. This change is difficult, but without it, the future sustainability of our plan was in doubt.

The committee's recommendations were accepted unanimously by the NU system's chief business officers, chancellors, president and the Board of Regents' Business and Finance Committee.

Unfortunately, the change means that 2020-21 premiums for voluntary participants will increase significantly. Premium rates, which are effective August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2021, will be as follows*:

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Student | \$3,057.16 | \$6,669.16 |
| Spouse | \$3,022.82 | \$6,634.82 |
| One Child | \$3,041.00 | \$6,653.00 |
| Two or More Children | \$5,896.00 | \$13,120.00 |
| Spouse & Two or More Children | \$8,928.89 | \$19,764.89 |

**Note: Premium rates exclude an administrative fee assessed to participants*

Despite the increases, the Platinum-rated plan – the best rating available – provides our students the best coverage for the best value that a student can find on the market today, based on our review of similar plans on the health market exchanges. For example, our review indicates that a student-only Gold plan on the healthcare.gov exchange averages about \$7,500 per year, before any federal subsidies for which an enrollee might qualify.

In addition, we want to note that:

- Deductibles, prescription drug copayments, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximums will remain unchanged, including no deductibles or coinsurance for covered medical expenses at the student health center.
- No changes are being made to the plan’s coverages. As a reminder, our student plan provides medical, dental and prescription drug coverage.
- UnitedHealthcare StudentResources is requiring prior authorization for certain medications in all its prescription drug programs.

We want to be candid that we are concerned about future pricing trends and may need to evaluate the sustainability of allowing voluntary enrollment in our plan in the future. While some of our peers do not allow voluntary enrollment, our intention is to continue to provide a voluntary option for our students as long as we can sponsor a plan that is competitive in the marketplace. We give you our commitment to explore every available option and will continue to engage a system-wide committee to study possible paths forward for 2021-22.

In the meantime, we understand you may want to consider your options for health insurance going forward. We have summarized some of those options below:

- If you are a Nebraska resident, you may be eligible for Medicaid under the state’s expanded program beginning October 1, 2020. More information about Medicaid expansion in Nebraska is available [here](#).
- If you are a Nebraska resident under the age of 19, or you have a dependent child under the age of 19, you may be eligible for the Nebraska Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). More information is available [here](#).
- You may select a plan from the Affordable Care Act Marketplace and possibly qualify for federal subsidies that would reduce your monthly premium. Choosing not to enroll in the University’s plan would create a “qualifying event” that would allow you to enroll immediately in a new plan from the Marketplace. You can explore the Marketplace [here](#).

- Edusure, a private health insurance clearinghouse for students, offers individual health plans. You can fill out an application and review your options [here](#).
- If you are age 26 or under, you may be able to obtain health insurance through a parent’s plan.
- You may be able to obtain health insurance through a spouse’s plan.

If you would like to discuss your options further, or if you have questions about the UnitedHealthcare StudentResources plan, we invite you to contact a UHCSR representative at (866) 351-4262.

Deductibles, coinsurance payments, and out-of-pocket maximums for 2020-21 – all unchanged from the current year – are below.

Deductibles

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Individual (Preferred Provider) | \$500 |
| Individual (Out-of-Network) | \$1,000 |
| Family (Preferred Provider) | \$1,000 |
| Family (Out-of-Network) | \$2,000 |

Coinsurance Payments

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Preferred Provider | 80% |
| Out-of-Network | 50% |

Out-of-Pocket Maximums

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Individual (Preferred Provider) | \$2,200 |
| Individual (Out-of-Network) | \$4,400 |
| Family (Preferred Provider) | \$4,400 |
| Family (Out-of-Network) | \$8,800 |

Note: “Voluntary” participants in the student health insurance plan provided by UnitedHealthcare StudentResources are any students who are not required by the University of Nebraska to have health insurance.