**Bulletin Insert or Announcement**

***Covered California’s Renewal Period for Health Plans Begins in October***Consumers with existing Covered California health plans can renew their health coverage or select new health plans now through Dec. 15.

When you renew your health plan, you can:  
-Review and update your contact information and application.  
-Compare different health plans to get the best coverage for your needs and budget by using the [Shop and Compare Tool](https://apply.coveredca.com/lw-shopandcompare/).  
-Find out if your monthly premium costs have changed, or if you can receive financial help to lower your costs.

**If you make no changes to your existing Covered California health plan by Nov. 23, you will be automatically renewed. It’s also important to note that Covered California’s official Open Enrollment period begins Nov. 1 and runs three months through Jan. 31, 2021.**

For questions or additional help renewing your health plan, [contact a certified enroller](https://www.coveredca.com/find-help/)  in your local area for free, confidential assistance or call Covered California at (800) 300-1506. ***Covered California Special Enrollment Extended Through December 31***

Consumers who don’t have health insurance, have been impacted by the state’s wildfires, have lost their job, suffer loss of income, or are victims of domestic abuse during COVID-19 pandemic, are now eligible to enroll in health plans through Covered California’s Special Enrollment through Dec. 31. Covered California’s Special Enrollment expansion and extension comes amid continued uncertainty in the lives and livelihoods of Californians as public health officials fight against the spread of COVID-19.

The extension also applies to consumers who enroll in off-exchange health plans, outside of Covered California, to ensure that people enrolling in the entire individual health care market in California will have access to coverage during the pandemic. All testing for COVID-19 is free of charge, and all health plans available through Medi-Cal and Covered California offer telehealth options.

People who sign up through Covered California will have access to private health insurance plans with monthly premiums that may be lowered due to federal and new state financial help that became effective in 2020. After selecting a health plan, their coverage would begin on the first day of the following month — meaning individuals losing job-based coverage would not face a gap in coverage. In addition, consumers who sign up through [CoveredCA.com](http://www.coveredca.com/) may find out that they are eligible for no-cost or low-cost coverage through Medi-Cal, which they can enroll in online. Those eligible for Medi-Cal can have coverage that is immediately effective.

Consumers can easily find out if they are eligible Medi-Cal or other forms of financial help and see which plans are available in their area by using the CoveredCA.Com [Shop and Compare Tool](https://apply.coveredca.com/lw-shopandcompare/) and entering their ZIP code, household income and the ages of those who need coverage. Those interested in learning more about their health plan options can also:

-Get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from a certified enroller.  
-Have a certified enroller [call them](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoveredca.helpondemand.com%2Flp%2Fa8c3085e-e597-4ac8-ba23-42f245fdfa11&data=02%7C01%7CAngie.Blanchette%40covered.ca.gov%7C5439e57d78a04741bc2f08d819e8d9d6%7C466d2f7db1424b9c8cddeba5537a0f27%7C0%7C0%7C637287835167091691&sdata=lVjxnXzb8T0GzaNZ%2B36ExfPR2C62z3jllRsf2gKijxg%3D&reserved=0) and help them for free  
-Call Covered California Service Center at (800) 300-1506.