



COOK
COUNTY
BENEFITS CONNECT



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS QUARTERLY

Fall 2019

Open Enrollment

October 1-31

Open Enrollment is the time to make your annual benefit elections via the Employee Self Service (ESS) portal. Health benefit contribution rates and plan designs are not changing for 2020. However, all benefits eligible employees should review their benefit elections.

If you need to make a change, the ESS portal is where to go to modify current benefit elections, add or remove dependents, or enroll in your 2020 Flexible Spending Account (FSA).

Health plan changes are effective December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. For information and enrollment assistance, attend one of 12 information events. See the schedule on page 2.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Open Enrollment is also the time to make new Flexible Spending (health care and dependent day care) elections. Each calendar year, a new election must be completed on the ESS portal. The Health Care FSA maximum contribution will increase to \$2,700 for 2020, while the dependent day care FSA will remain at \$5,000. Flexible Spending Account elections will be effective January 1, 2020.

Voluntary Benefits

Voluntary Benefits go into effect November 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. The Voluntary Benefits open enrollment ended on September 13, 2019 and included products such as Accident, Critical Illness, Hospital Indemnity, Short-Term Disability, Universal Life, ID Theft and Pre-Paid Legal. Additions to Voluntary Benefits can be made if you have a qualifying life event such as marriage or a new child or during Open Enrollment in October 2020.



Deferred Compensation

The deferred compensation plan is designed to provide supplemental income for retirement in addition to an employee's pension benefit.

Cook County offers a Section 457(b) deferred compensation plan as a tax-deferred method for you to save for retirement. Employees enrolled in the plan make voluntary contributions each pay period and can invest in an array of investment options. Call 877-677-3678 or visit www.cookcountycdc.com for more information.

October Open Enrollment Informational Events

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Open Enrollment Begins 1	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 2 Bridgeview Courthouse 10220 S. 76 th Ave 1 st Floor Lobby Bridgeview, IL 60455	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 3 Criminal Courts Building 2650 S. California Ave. 2nd Floor Cafeteria Chicago, IL 60608	4
7	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 8 Stroger Hospital 1969 W. Ogden Ave Lower Level Cafeteria Chicago, IL 60612	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 9 Provident Hospital 500 E. 51 st Street Cafeteria Chicago, IL 60615	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 10 Markham Courthouse 16501 S. Kedzie Pkwy 1st Floor Lobby Markham, IL 60428	11
14	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 15 Rolling Meadows Courthouse 2121 Euclid Ave. Room 030 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 16 Skokie Courthouse 5600 Old Orchard Rd. Room 201 Skokie, IL 60077	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 17 Maywood Courthouse 1500 S. Maybrook Dr Jury Room LL Maywood, IL 60153	18
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 21 Cook County Admin Building 69 W. Washington St. 17th Floor Conference Room Chicago, IL 60602	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 22 Forest Preserves of Cook County 536 N. Harlem Ave. 1 st Floor Board Room River Forrest, IL 60305	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 23 Juvenile Detention Center 1100 S Hamilton Ave Auditorium Chicago, IL 60612	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 24 County Building 118 N Clark St 10 th Floor Chicago, IL 60602	25
28	29	30	Open Enrollment Ends 31	

Don't miss your chance to save!

Open enrollment is coming soon.



Blue Distinction ®

When it comes to you and your family's health, anything less than the best is not an option. Now more than ever, you need real facts so you can make smart choices about your health care.

Blue Distinction improves the quality of care you receive by recognizing health care facilities that focus on better outcomes for specific types of care:

- [Bariatric surgery](#)
- [Cardiac care](#)
- [Transplants](#)
- [Complex and rare cancers](#)
- [Knee and hip replacement](#)
- [Spine surgery](#)



Use the www.bcbsil.com [Provider Finder](#) to identify Blue Distinction Centers in your area.

Flu Vaccination

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to help protect against flu. Vaccinations have many [benefits](#) including reducing the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and even the risk of flu-related death in children.



In addition to getting a flu shot at your doctor's office, employees enrolled in a Cook County health plan can get a flu shot at a nearby CVS pharmacy. There's no appointment needed and no co-pay to worry about. Just walk in with your prescription card and a valid photo ID. Your immunization is 100% covered by the pharmacy plan.

Want to find the closest CVS pharmacy? Visit the [CVS store locator](https://www.cvs.com/store-locator/landing) at <https://www.cvs.com/store-locator/landing>.

We are also offering free flu shots for employees at the Open Enrollment events.



United Way

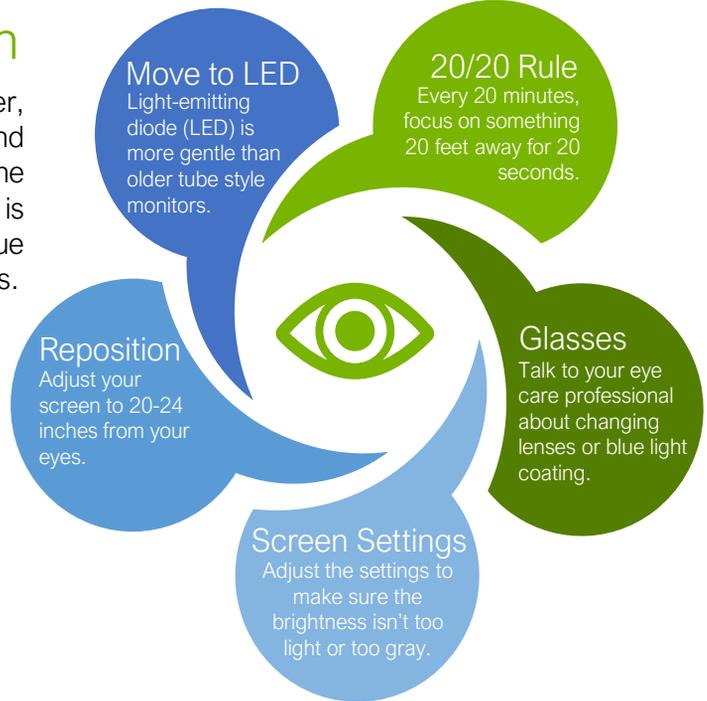
This year Cook County is pleased to offer all employees an opportunity to participate in a Cook County Charitable Giving Campaign hosted by United Way.

Please look for an email with campaign kickoff information and a link to easily contribute to some worthy causes directly from your paycheck.

More information about United Way can be found at www.cookcountyrisk.com

Ways to Reduce Eyestrain

Whether a cell phone, tablet, reader, computer, or smart TV, the efficiency and entertainment is inarguable. However, the price you pay can be eyestrain. Eyestrain is marked by dry, tired eyes and blurry vision due to lack of blinking. Here are some suggestions.



Living365[®]

You are invited to a Living365[®] diabetes class at a Jewel-Osco pharmacy near you!

These classes are offered at NO CHARGE and will give you a chance to:

1. Go on a 'Healthy Eating' grocery store tour led by a registered dietitian
2. Engage with a Jewel-Osco pharmacist to learn more about diabetes and related treatments, monitoring blood glucose, and adding physical activity into your lifestyle
3. Participate in a question and answer session
4. Receive educational materials and items such as a tote bag AND water bottle

Reserve your spot TODAY!

Call 877-728-6655 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., local time OR visit http://www.jewelosco.com/Living365_DM.

Daylight Savings Time



On November 3, 2019, turn your clocks back one hour at bedtime. There will be more light in the morning!

Have questions?

Visit cookcountyrisk.com or contact Employee Benefits:

Email: risk.mgmt@cookcountyil.gov

Blue Cross Blue Shield Hotline Numbers:

For HMO plan: 1 (800) 892-2803
For PPO plan: 1 (800) 960-8809



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