



Inside This Newsletter:

- *Step Ahead to Enroll*
- *2014 Open Enrollment Informational Meeting Survey*
- *Team Vaccine*
- *Fire Safety & Evacuation*
- *Spring Into Health*



With the changing of the seasons, Open Enrollment is just around the corner. Open Enrollment will begin on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, and will end on Friday October 31, 2014. All insurance plan enrollment changes become effective December 1, 2014, and Flexible Spending Account election changes take effect January 1, 2015.

What is Open Enrollment?

Open Enrollment is your annual opportunity to make changes to your medical, dental or vision benefits and/or enroll in a flexible spending account.

What changes can I make during Open Enrollment?

- Enroll in or switch your medical and/or dental coverage. Employees that are members of a union must satisfy their one-year eligibility requirement in an HMO plan before switching to a PPO option.
- Add or remove eligible dependents.
- Enroll in health care or dependent care flexible spending accounts.

Who is an eligible dependent?

Dependent benefits are extended to spouses, domestic partners and civil union partners. Children also maybe be covered up the age of 26 and military veterans may be covered up to the age 30.

Are there any benefit changes for 2015?

There is a new grace period for the Health Care Flexible Spending Account. You now have an additional 2½ months to use medical services with funds remaining from 2014.

Do I need to re-enroll in a flexible spending account?

Yes, flexible spending account elections from the previous plan year do not carry over to the next plan year.

How do I make changes to my benefits?

Changes can be made on www.cookcountyrisk.com or by submitting completed Personal Information Statement forms to the Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Risk Management. Enrollments must be submitted by October 31, 2014, or they will not be processed.

Can I make changes to my benefits elections outside of the Open Enrollment period?

Yes, you may add or remove dependents within 31 days of a life status change event, such as marriage, birth of a child or loss of other health care coverage.

The Employee Benefits Division will be mailing an Open Enrollment packet to your home address. The packet will include your customized Personal Information Statement, Open Enrollment brochure and a Benefits Overview. Review these documents carefully and plan accordingly for 2015.



2014 Open Enrollment Informational Meeting Survey

Last November, the Employee Benefits Division conducted a survey on the Open Enrollment Informational meetings held at 11 County locations. We received 596 employee responses and from your comments we learned that employees:

- Would like to see the Annuity and Benefits Fund (Pension Board) participate in the Open Enrollment Informational meetings.
We are currently working with the Annuity and Benefits Fund to participate in the Open Enrollment Informational meetings.
- Want a longer Open Enrollment period.
Open Enrollment has now been extended through the full month of October.
- Need more frequent communication on the upcoming Open Enrollment.
Check your home mailbox for your Open Enrollment packet. We will be sending email and voicemail reminders to all County employees. Your timekeeper will also have additional Open Enrollment information.
- Would like to see extended hours and additional locations for the Open Enrollment Informational Meetings.
We have changed hours at some locations to accommodate evening work shifts and added a new location (Daley Center) this year.

Your responses are extremely valuable in assisting us with planning future Open Enrollment Informational Meetings.

We extend our gratitude to everyone that participated in the survey.

MEET

TEAM VACCINE

OUR MISSION: MAINTAIN YOUR HEALTHY CONDITION.

Want to enjoy a happy and healthy winter season? Getting routine vaccines is your best shot at staying a step ahead of common illnesses like the flu and pneumonia.

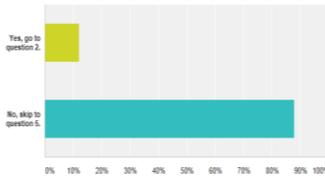
We want to make it as easy as possible for you and your family to avoid preventable illnesses. That's why we are pleased to let you know that routine vaccines are now available at any CVS/pharmacy near you. Be sure to call ahead for availability and to make an appointment (if necessary). You will also need to bring your prescription card and photo ID. **[Best of all, there's no cost and no copay+ because you're covered 100 percent by your plan.]**

Together we can help prevent common illnesses before they start.

Visit a CVS/pharmacy near you to get vaccinated today!

Did you attend an Open Enrollment informational meeting from October 7 to October 18?

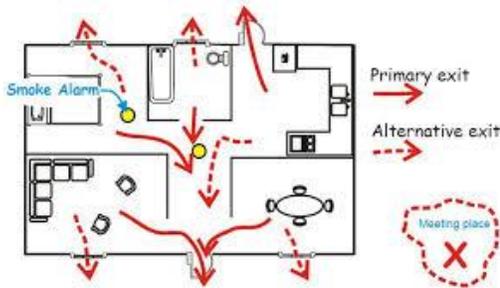
Answered: 583 Skipped: 13



“Your responses are extremely valuable in assisting us with planning future Open Enrollment Informational Meetings.”

Save a trip to the doctor's office and get your flu vaccination during the Open Enrollment Informational Meetings.
Just bring your County ID!

Fire Safety & Evacuation



When was your last fire drill? The Department of Risk Management, Safety Division can help you form your Fire Safety & Evacuation Committee. Per OSHA Regulation 29 CFR 1910.38(b), all Cook County departments must have a written emergency action plan on file in the work place.

You must also file your emergency action plan with the Department of Risk Management. Should your staff need training, please contact the Risk Management Safety Division for more information at (312) 603-5297.

SPRING INTO HEALTH

As part of our Worksite Wellness program, the Employee Benefits Division conducted the County's third annual "Spring into Health" fairs. The fairs were hosted at five Cook County Government buildings in May and over 1,000 employees attended.

During the health fairs, 331 A1C (diabetes) test were administered and 367 blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) screenings were conducted. Other screenings provided included dermascans, vision screenings, physical therapist assessments, stress reduction and healthy cooking demonstrations.

Representatives from the County's health care vendors, the Forest Preserve District and the Annuity and Benefit Fund were also on hand to answer questions.

