

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

45-19

11/4/19

FEDERAL BENEFITS 2019 OPEN SEASON

I. PURPOSE

This notice announces the Federal Benefits 2019 Open Season (2019 Open Season) from November 11, 2019 through December 09, 2019. This open season is for the 2020 plan year of Federal benefits programs. During the 2019 Open Season, eligible employees may enroll, change, or cancel coverage in the following programs:

1. Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program;
2. Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP); and
3. Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS)

II. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES REGARDING THE 2019 OPEN SEASON

If an employee's current plan dropped out of the FEHB Program or terminated an enrollment code, the employee needs to complete a 2019 Open Season election to remain covered under an FEHB plan in 2020. Please review the 2019 Federal Benefits Open Season Announcement 19-401 for FEHB Plan changes: <https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/publications-forms/benefits-administration-letters/>. Employees will be notified by letter if their plans or codes are terminated.

III. OBTAINING FEHB BROCHURES AND FORMS

A. OPM no longer issues a Guide to Federal Benefits or provides individual FEHB plan brochures. To obtain health insurance brochures and forms, employees can view or print 2019 Open Season information at the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) web site: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season>

B. Employees may obtain the SF-2809, Health Benefits Election Form, (SF 2809) at: https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/sf2809.pdf or by contacting the Employee Services Section at: 1-800-370-3747, option 3.

IV. COMPLETING FEHB ELECTIONS DURING THE 2019 OPEN SEASON

A. Employees may use the Employee Personal Page (EPP) to enroll, make changes, or cancel FEHB coverage, or to change their premium conversion status, which allows the deduction of FEHB premiums prior to tax withholdings.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic; All
FSIS Employees

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B. The EPP provides electronic employee self-service through the National Finance Center (NFC) at <https://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/index.aspx>.

C. To use EPP, employees need to have a User ID and Password or their e-Authentication login. If employees are changing health plans, they will need the 3-character code of the health plan in which they are enrolling. In addition, if employees are enrolling in “self and family” coverage or “self plus one,” they will need the eligible family members’ names, social security numbers, and dates of birth.

D. Employees should print a copy of their completed enrollment for their personal records.

E. Employees retiring on or before January 5, 2020 may not use the EPP to process their 2019 Open Season change. Instead, they are to complete the SF-2809 and write at the top “RETIRING ON (DATE)” so the form is properly processed with their retirement papers.

F. FEHB elections may also be submitted using the SF-2809. Print, complete, and return the SF 2809 no later than December 09, 2019. Fax to: 1-833-840-9217.

G. FEHB 2019 Open Season changes are effective January 05, 2020.

V. COMPLETING FSAFEDS ENROLLMENTS DURING THE 2019 OPEN SEASON

A. To re-enroll in a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for 2019, employees should visit www.fsafeds.com or call (877) 372-3337. Hearing impaired employees may call the FSAFEDS TTY line at (866) 353-8058.

B. FSAFEDS 2019 Open Season enrollments are effective January 1, 2020.

VI. COMPLETING FEDVIP ELECTIONS DURING THE 2019 OPEN SEASON

A. To complete a Federal Employee Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP) election, employees should visit www.benefeds.com or call BENEFEDS at (877) 888-3337. Hearing impaired employees may call (877) 889-5680.

B. FEDVIP 2019 Open Season changes are effective January 1, 2020.

VII. QUESTIONS

For more information, please visit the following link:

<https://inside.fsis.usda.gov/fsis/emp/static/centerContent/fsisPage.jsp?keyword=healthcare>

(Level 2 eAuthentication is needed to access this site) or contact the Employee Services Section, Human Resources Operations Division, Office of Human Resources at 1-800-370-3747, option 3 with questions or to request all the pertinent Open Season documents via mail or email.



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