



INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

RoAnn M. Destito
Commissioner

Enhanced Flu Vaccine Benefit for Empire Plan Enrollees

The Empire Plan has amended its medical coverage to make it easier for enrollees to receive the flu vaccine. This action supports Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's declaration of a Public Health Emergency in response to this year's severe influenza season.

Effective **February 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013**, Empire Plan enrollees and their covered dependents can receive a flu vaccination without a co-payment at the following participating pharmacies:

- CVS
- Rite Aid
- Safeway
- Target
- Walgreens

Vaccinations received at other pharmacies or administered by non-participating physicians will be covered under the Basic Medical Program component of the Plan, subject to reasonable and customary charges but not subject to deductible or coinsurance. Enrollees who choose to be vaccinated at a non-network pharmacy or by a non-participating physician will need to submit a claim for reimbursement.

For more information about this benefit enhancement, please read the FAQ's below, or call the Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and select Option 1 for the Medical Program. You can also go online at <https://www.cs.ny.gov> and select Benefit Programs, NYSHIP Online, choose your group, and click on "What's New?"

For more information visit the BSC website or contact the BSC today!

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The Empire Plan Influenza Vaccinations: Benefit Enhancement Commonly Asked Questions

Q. Why is The Empire Plan coverage for the influenza vaccine temporarily being changed?

A. In response to the rapidly growing number of reported influenza (flu) cases in New York State, Governor Cuomo recently declared a Public Health Emergency. In support of the Governor's Emergency declaration, The Empire Plan is enhancing its coverage options to help enrollees and enrolled dependents receive timely and convenient access to the flu vaccine throughout the duration of the 2013 flu season.

Q. Can my family and I get the flu shot for free? And, can we get it at a pharmacy?

A. Yes, at specified locations. For all Empire Plan enrollees and enrolled dependents, vaccinations received at the following national network pharmacy locations will be provided with no copayment:

CVS
Rite Aid
Safeway
Target
Walgreens

For vaccinations received at all other pharmacies or by a nonparticipating provider, coverage will be provided under the Basic Medical Program subject to reasonable and customary charges but not subject to deductible or coinsurance. Enrollees who choose to be vaccinated at a non-network pharmacy or by a nonparticipating physician will need to submit a claim for reimbursement.

Vaccinations received from a participating physician (not through a pharmacy) also will be covered with no copayment.

Q. How long will this updated benefit be in effect?

A. This enhanced benefit is effective February 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013. (The annual flu season usually peaks in February and runs through late spring.)

Q. What if I already got my flu shot?

A. This enhanced coverage does not include reimbursement for flu vaccinations administered prior to February 1, 2013, regardless of location.

Q. Who can I call if I have questions?

A. Contact your physician or pharmacist with general questions about the flu vaccine and to determine if you or your family should get vaccinated. For questions about this enhanced coverage, call The Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press 1 for the Medical Program.