TEXFLEX UPDATES

Great news! The CARES Act of 2021 contains provisions to allow for changes to your TexFlex account such as:

- Temporary removal of the carryover limit from PY 2020 and PY 2021. This includes health care and dependent care accounts.
- Increasing or decreasing your TexFlex contributions without a qualifying life event during PY 2021.
- More time to use your funds after you stop contributions or leave employment if prior to the end of PY 2021.
- Dependent care claims can be submitted for children up to age 14.
- Changes in regards to over the counter drugs and medicines.

You can find more information on the ERS website: Changes to TexFlex.

Please contact Liza Villadiego at ext 4133 if you wish to make changes to your TexFlex account.

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

The COVID-19 vaccination is now available in Texas, although when and where you can get it varies by your age, risk factors and location throughout the state.

Please visit the COVID-19 information page provided by ERS for more information. ERS updates this page as new information becomes available, so check the site regularly.

You can also find information specific to COVID-19 vaccines and your benefits on the HealthSelect of Texas website: COVID-19 Vaccines.

NEWS FROM HEALTHSELECT/BCBSTX

BCBSTX and ERS are working to make things easier by providing additional support and benefits coverage for HealthSelect participants during this emotionally stressful time of COVID-19.

This COVID-19 FAQ Document outlines the most recent changes to your health plan as well as options for care for you and your covered family members.

For additional information visit the COVID-19 and Your HealthSelect of Texas Plan page.

For more specific benefit-related questions, please contact a BCBSTX Personal Health Assistant at 1-800-252-8039 for more information. They are available Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT.

ADDITIONAL HEALTHSELECT/BCBSTX RESOURCES

- All HealthSelect participants have access to medical and mental health virtual visits at Doctor on Demand and MDLive at no cost to you at this time.
- Your primary care provider (PCP) or specialist may be able to provide services via telemedicine/telehealth platforms. At this time, in-network telemedicine services are covered at no cost to you for covered services. Contact your provider(s) to ask if this service is available.
- Download the COVID-19 flier for general information.
- Watch a recording of Doctor on Demand's educational presentation on COVID-19.
- Use the Provider Finder tool to find health care providers in your area.
- Learn more about your Mental Health Benefits.
- Learn more about your Prescription Drug Program.
DEDUCTIBLES AND COINSURANCE

All annual deductibles, coinsurance maximums, and out-of-pocket maximums reset on January 1 of each year. This includes the $50 per person prescription deductible.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

March is National Nutrition month. Take the opportunity this March to get on track in regards to nutrition.

Visit the ERS event calendar for upcoming webinars about nutrition-focused self-management programs that provide information regarding the importance of making the right choices in regards to healthy eating and physical activity.

You can find more information regarding wellness on the HealthSelect of Texas and Consumer Directed HealthSelect Wellness page.

NO CHANGES TO IRS 2021 MAXIMUM LIMIT TO 403(B) TSA ACCOUNTS

For calendar year 2021, the elective deferral contribution limit for employees who participate in 403(b) plans remains $19,500. The catch-up contribution limit for those age 50 and over remains $6,500.

Employees wishing to set up a new 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) account should visit with Judy Salazar in HR, ext 4784.

If you are already contributing to a 403(b) TSA account and you wish to change your monthly contribution amount you can do so by completing the on-line Salary Reduction Agreement and returning it to Judy Salazar. Changes are effective the 1st of the month following the signature date.

IS RETIREMENT IN YOUR FUTURE?

If you are considering retirement, it is important that you contact Judy Salazar at least four to six months prior to the expected retirement date to determine your eligibility for retirement benefits. For TRS members, an estimate of your expected retirement annuity can be requested from TRS along with your retirement forms and official benefit statement. The request is confidential and does not obligate you to complete the retirement process. Prior to retirement, TRS will require a copy of your and your beneficiary's proof of age. Prospective TRS and ORP retirees also need to learn whether they will qualify for entitlements such as retiree health and life insurance options. Advance planning will allow time to make important decisions based on accurate information.

Please contact Judy Salazar at ext 4784 to schedule an appointment well in advance of your retirement date.

1095-C Forms Now Available

If you have provided consent to receive your 2020 Form 1095-C electronically, it is now available in Banner Self Service.

If you have not given electronic consent, a paper copy was mailed March 4, 2021 to your address on file. If you wish to sign up for electronic consent, once you log into Banner Self Service, please follow the steps below:

- Employee Link
- Tax Forms Link
- Electronic W-2 Consent and 1095-C Consent Link
- Select the "Consent to receive 1095-C electronically" box under "My Choice" and click the submit button.

Please contact Liza Villadiego, ext 4133, with any questions.

Midwestern Club Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for the 2021-2022 Midwestern Club Scholarship. The recipient must be a full-time faculty, staff or administration member at MSU Texas or an immediate family member (husband, wife, son or daughter) of a full-time employee of MSU Texas. The recipient must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours. The scholarship is for one year and is equally divided between the Fall and Spring semesters.

Applications are available on the Donor Services and Scholarships website. The deadline to apply is June 1.