



## THE LOCAL CHOICE E-NEWS

### Department of Human Resource Management State and Local Health Benefits Programs

October 4, 2021

#### ***The Local Choice Unveils 2021-22 Flu Shot Program***

It's the time of year for getting a flu shot to protect yourself and those you love. We are fighting on two fronts in 2021 – influenza and COVID-19. Please encourage employees to get a flu shot and COVID-19 vaccination (visit [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov)).

The more people who receive the flu shot, the higher our community immunity levels will be, and there will be less pressure on the healthcare system from seasonal flu and pneumonia. This will ensure available capacity to meet the needs placed on the healthcare system by COVID-19 variants.

During the 2021-22 flu season, TLC health plan members may again get a free flu shot at pharmacies participating in their health plan's network.

- **TLC Key Advantage and TLC HDHP members** also may receive shots at no cost from network physicians' offices and other participating providers.
- **Kaiser Permanente HMO members** must go to a participating Kaiser medical center.
- **Optima Health members** will receive flu shots at no cost from network participating pharmacies. To find participating pharmacies, call the number on the back of your ID card.

Visit <https://www.thelocalchoice.virginia.gov/flushots.html> to find participating providers, questions and answers on each plan and a flyer to distribute to employees. It is important that plan members call ahead to be sure the pharmacy is participating in the program and flu shots are available. An appointment may be required.

See the attached flu shot guidelines for groups that wish to coordinate flu shots onsite with participating pharmacies. DHRM recommends that due to COVID-19, groups choosing to offer flu shot clinics with participating pharmacies strongly consider drive through or walk up options rather than holding onsite flu shot clinics. Again, be sure that the pharmacy is participating in the Commonwealth's program before scheduling a clinic.

A pharmacy must file in-network flu shot claims through its online system. If plan members are denied coverage for the flu shot, they should ask the pharmacist to call the telephone number on the back of their ID card. TLC Key Advantage and TLC HDHP ID cards have a Pharmacy Questions number.

While members may receive a flu shot at a non-network pharmacy, coverage will be at the out-of-network benefit level. This means they will likely have to file the claim themselves and will be responsible for any costs over the allowable charge.

***Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to The Local Choice mailbox at [tlc@dhrm.virginia.gov](mailto:tlc@dhrm.virginia.gov).***