

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

FSIS NOTICE

59-18

11/2/18

FEDERAL BENEFITS 2018 OPEN SEASON

I. PURPOSE

This notice announces the Federal Benefits 2018 Open Season (2018 Open Season) from November 12, 2018 through December 10, 2018. During the 2018 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 2018 OPEN SEASON

If an employee's current plan dropped out of the FEHB Program or terminated an enrollment code, employees **need to** complete a 2018 Open Season election to remain covered under a FEHB plan in 2018. Employees will be notified by letter if their plans or codes are terminated.

III. OBTAINING FEHB BROCHURES AND FORMS

A. OPM no longer produces a Guide to Federal Benefits or provides individual FEHB plan brochures. To obtain health insurance brochures and forms, employees can view or print 2018 Open Season information at the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) web site: [Healthcare](#) or by contacting the Employee Services Section at: 1-800-370-3747, option 3.

B. Employees may obtain the SF-2809, *Health Benefits Election Form*, at: [Health Benefits Election Form](#) or by contacting the Employee Services Section at: 1-800-370-3747, option 3.

IV. COMPLETING FEHB ELECTIONS DURING THE 2018 OPEN SEASON

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

1. The EPP provides electronic employee self-service through the National Finance Center (NFC) at [My EPP](#);
2. 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

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and family” coverage or “self plus one”, they will need the eligible family members’ names, social security numbers, and dates of birth;

3. Employees should print a copy of their completed enrollment for their personal records; and
4. Employees retiring on or before January 6, 2019, may not use the EPP to process their 2018 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.

B. FEHB elections may also be submitted using the SF-2809. Print, complete and return the SF 2809 later than December 10, 2018 by mail or fax to:

USDA, FSIS, HROD
Employee Services Section or Fax: 612-370-2062
100 N 6th Street, Suite 420-C
Minneapolis, MN 55403

C. FEHB 2018 Open Season changes are effective January 06, 2019.

V. COMPLETING FSAFEDS ENROLLMENTS DURING THE 2018 OPEN SEASON

A. To re-enroll in a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for 2018, employees should visit [FSA Feds](#) or call (877) 372-3337. Hearing impaired employees may call the FSAFEDS TTY line at (800) 952-0450.

B. FSAFEDS 2018 Open Season enrollments are effective January 1, 2019.

VI. COMPLETING FEDVIP ELECTIONS DURING THE 2018 OPEN SEASON

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

B. FEDVIP 2018 Open Season changes are effective January 1, 2019.

VII. QUESTIONS

For more information visit the following link: [Healthcare & Insurance](#) (Level 2 eAuthentication is needed to access this site) or contact the Employee Services Section 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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