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March 31, 2020

To: State of Oregon Legislature; Coordinated Care Organization CEOs;
Healthcare Stakeholders

From: Patrick M. Allen, Oregon Health Authority Director
Lou Savage, Department of Consumer and Business Services Interim Director

Dear Legislators and Healthcare Partners:

After [Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order 20-12](#) from March 23, 2020, we have seen an increase in business closures and changes to business operations to comply with that order. Along with those closures and changes, we can expect – and have already begun to see – an increase in requests to access state- and federal-related benefits such as health insurance, including the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). To that end, we are sharing a few resources with you for your information and to share with your communities. Please see the following information attached to this email:

- COVID-19 Scenarios and Benefits Available checklist. This checklist helps employers understand what benefits support actions during the COVID-19 emergency.
- “Your Guide to Getting Health Insurance Coverage in Oregon” from March 26, 2020. This document helps Oregonians decide what type of insurance is right for them between OHP, Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace, and Medicare.
- Job loss and health insurance coverage document from March 26, 2020. This document outlines six ways workers with employer-based insurance can maintain coverage after a layoff or reduction in hours.
- Oregon Health Plan Fact Sheet. This document describes what is covered for OHP members, how to get prescriptions by mail, and how to access appointments from home.

A few more pieces of information we are sharing with you:

SNAP program changes: Oregon is participating in a pilot project that allows Oregonians who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase groceries online from participating vendors. To learn more, see the March 26 news release here: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/DHSNEWS/NewsReleases/NR-SnapOnline.pdf>.

Public charge language and FAQs: An updated FAQ, developed March 17, 2020, is at <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/ERD/Pages/public-charge.aspx>.

For more information on COVID-19, please go to www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus and sign up for the daily coronavirus update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Allen'.

Patrick M. Allen, Director
Oregon Health Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Savage'.

Lou Savage, Interim Director
Department of Consumer and
Business Services