Educators Health Alliance

Participation. Collaboration. Cooperation.

In This Issue:

- Thank You Mr. Craig Christiansen
- Seasons in the EHA Ends and Begins
- A New and Innovative Way to Access Health Care 24/7/365!
- Spring Into Fitness
- Boston Marathon with EHA Wellness

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EHA to Dependent Eligible Verification Program Concerns

Lincoln, NE, May 10, 2017 - The Educators Health Alliance recently voted to suspend the Dependent Eligibility Verification (DEV) at the end of the current 2016/17 school year and address concerns that have been identified in the program recently completed. The goal of this action is to ensure all members who are truly eligible, and only those truly eligible, will be able to participate in the best health care benefits in Nebraska.

The EHA is committed to the care and wellbeing of all our members and families. We are directing Xerox, the vendor administering the program, to go further in the reconsideration of applicants determined ineligible in the DEV review recently completed. In order to accomplish this, we have requested the following for each of the categories of applicants determined ineligible.

1. Applicants who provided adequate evidence of eligibility but were terminated due to missing the deadline for submission will be immediately added to coverage.
2. For applicants that had an appeal in process but did not complete the appeal in the program timeframe, we will immediately reopen the appeal process through June 30 and allow eligibility verification to be completed in this timeframe. Cont. P. 2

EHA Welcomes Maddie Fennell

The Educators Health Alliance would like to welcome Maddie Fennell! She is the new Executive Director and Board Member representing the NSEA within the EHA. She values the common goal of putting the EHA members first, believes in respecting the individual needs of each member

Maddie Fennell joins Dr. Mike Dulaney of the NCSA and Mr. John Spatz of the NASB as the acting Executive Director of the EHA Committee members.

DEV Announcement Continued: Pg.1

3. For applicants that provided information and were determined ineligible due to incomplete responses, we will allow through June 30 to provide complete information.
4. For applicants who were determined ineligible because no response was provided to the DEV program, we will reopen an eligibility verification widow through June 30 on receipt of evidence or representation from the employer that attempt(s) were made to provide information or no request for verification was received by the member.

Members determined to be eligible through any of the 4 avenues above will have coverage reinstated back to January 1, 2017.

Furthermore, the EHA Board will study the concerns and seek input from the school districts and members across the State in designing any future DEV program to be used by the EHA.

Please contact at Xerox a (855-874-8505) or www.acs-dev.com/eha to initiate the potential reinstatement of coverage as outlined above.

If you have any questions about this policy please feel free to contact the EHA Field Representative, Greg Long at greg@ehaplan.org or 866-465-1342 or Kent Trelford-Thompson at Kent.Trelford-Thomps@nebraskablue.com or 402-982-6810.

Get up-to-date EHA updates by following me on Twitter @EHAGregLong1

Educators Health Alliance

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EHA Wellness 2017

Participating Organizations

Nebraska Council of School Administrators

Nebraska State Education Association

NASB Nebraska Association of School Boards

Read The Label!

This month's EHA Wellness Challenge is "Read The Label". This challenge is focused on healthy nutrition, understanding food label nutrition facts, and reducing added sugars from your diet. The *Nutrition Facts* found on today's food labels provide a quick and easy guide to healthy eating. Although we read food labels for different reasons, there is a benefit in learning to read and to use this information more effectively. This challenge will make it easier to regularly use food labels in making the daily choices that contribute to a healthy diet. Watch for the new and improved *Nutrition Facts* label on products as the deadline is 2018 for food manufacturers.

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Be Sun Smart!!

A person's sunlight exposure is generally considered to increase the risk of skin cancer and heat stress. We've heard it all before, but make sure you and your family use sun screen and have a sun strategy for summer activities! Below are some great sun strategies that can be used so you and your family can enjoy the great outdoors over the summer.

- **Apply sunscreen early and repeat.** For kids six months and older (as well as adults), sunscreens with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or greater reduce the intensity of UVRs that cause sunburns. Apply liberally 15 to 30 minutes before sun exposure, so it can absorb into the skin and decrease the likelihood that it will be washed off. Reapply every two hours and after kids swim, sweat or dry off with a towel. For most users, proper application and reapplication are more important factors than using a product with a higher SPF.

  Cover Up. Dress in cool protective clothing and hats. Clothing can be an excellent barrier of ultraviolet rays. Many light-weight sun-protective styles cover the neck, elbows and knees.

- **Plan early morning play.** Unless you are swimming plan as many outdoor activities outside of peak-sun hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) as much as possible. Sound impossible for your active kids and lifestyle? Then make sure you all can get a break from the sun when needed and stay well hydrated with cool water to avoid heat stress related issues.

- **Water is best.** When working or playing outdoors make sure to drink plenty of cool water. Sodas, coffee, ice tea, Gatorade and other beverages are not a replacement of for water. The body is over 70% and needs water to function at all times, especially in the summer. The more exposure to the sun and heat the more water a person should drink. Cool and cold water is best to help keep the body's core temperature in check.

- **The shade**. Many people think sitting in the shade is a simple sun compromise. Shade does provide relief from the heat, but it offers a sense of security from the sun, but a false sense of security about ultra violet ray (UVR) protection. You can still sunburn in the shade, because light is scattered and reflected. A fair skinned person can still burn in the shade in less than 60 minutes. Make sure you wear sunscreen even in the shade, drink plenty of water, and have a cool place to rest as needed.

- **Check the weather.** Look for the ultra-violet (UV) index (on a site like Weather.com) when planning outdoor activities; it predicts the intensity of UV light based on the sun's position, cloud movements, altitude, ozone data and other factors. Higher UV index numbers predict more intense UV light.