

To: GEO Union Representative

From: Frank Mertes, Associate Director University Health Services

cc: UHS Patient Services, ??

Date: January __, 2021

Re: Spring 2021 Semester Reminder Email – Graduate Employee Organization (GEO) Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) Enrollment Deadline

Dear GEO Union Representative,

Hello, the purpose of this letter is to assist you in reminding eligible GEO members of important SHBP enrollment deadlines, website links and other important information.

Who needs to take action?

- Eligible GEO members taking five or more credits are automatically enrolled in the individual Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) each semester and charged on the semester's tuition bill with agreed upon exemptions. If a member intends to use private health insurance instead of the SHBP, the member must waive the SHBP before the end of the add/drop period (extended to 2/28/2021 this semester due to the change in the spring semester schedule).
- Eligible GEO members who currently have or want to add a family plan must enroll in the family plan each semester, regardless if enrolled in the Family plan in the prior semester. The enrollment deadline is before the end of the add/drop period (extended to 2/28/2021 this semester due to the change in the spring semester schedule).
- Eligible GEO members who are academically enrolled for fewer than five (5) credits or on program fee are not automatically enrolled for the Individual Student Health Fee, the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP), the Family Student Health Fee or the SHBP Family plan. The eligible GEO member must enroll at University Health Services via Patient Services representatives before the end of the add/drop period of each semester to ensure no lapse in health plan coverage (extended to 2/28/2021 this semester due to the change in the spring semester schedule).

Additional Information;

Fall coverage starts August 1st and ends the day before spring semester starts (mid Jan but this date fluctuates year to year by a day or so)

Spring coverage starts the first day of the spring semester (mid Jan) and ends July 31st.

Members should print a copy of their insurance card every year by visiting <https://wellfleetstudent.com/>. The plan year changes on the insurance card every Fall and there could be other changes to information on the card.

Waiver and enrollment forms are on our website <https://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp>. Once completing the form, please send or drop off to Patient Services at UHS 150 Infirmery Way. Amherst, Ma 01003 or can be sent via email to patientservices@uhs.umass.edu. Questions please call patient Services at 413-577-5192. Enrollment and waivers cannot be done over the phone we need our forms filled out and a signature from the student.

Affidavit of domestic partnership form is also on our website and should be completed and sent to patient services. <https://www.umass.edu/uhs/optional-enrollment>. Once filled out, it is on file and will not need to be done again for the same partner each semester.

Students with a Feb or Sept graduation date will need to get a letter from their department with the date of anticipated graduation to provide to Patient Services for coverage to be extended for a month.

Student who have questions about their benefits or are seeking reimbursement for out of pocket expenses should visit <https://wellfleetstudent.com/> to access the Summary of plan benefits or to obtain claim forms or students call the UMass dedicated customer services line 1-877-657-5027.

Sincerely

Frank Mertes,
Associate Director University Health Services