

Helping Ohioans with
Healthcare Benefit
Choices



Department
of Insurance

Month in Review

Mike DeWine, Governor | Jon Husted, Lt. Governor | Jillian Froment, Director

Celebrating Safely

By Interim Director, *Tynesia Dorsey*



The holiday season is a special time of year for many people. Friends and family often come together to celebrate, carrying out traditions of old and new. Unfortunately, things are different this year amid a pandemic requiring us to take precautions to slow a deadly virus.

But this festive time can still be cheerful, we just have to do it safely. A video chat, phone call, text, or sending a card or letter in the mail goes a long way as a mood booster. And when we are active and around others, Governor DeWine and health officials continue to stress mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing, and keeping any necessary gatherings small.

Even with a festive spirit in the air, though, this season can induce emotional challenges for different reasons. Feelings of frustration, isolation, and loneliness are especially prevalent during this pandemic. Ohioans need to

know they are not alone. Supportive resources from the state of Ohio through www.coronavirus.ohio.gov and the Ohio Careline (1-800-720-9616) are available. At the Ohio Department of Insurance we are helping people identify and understand how to access their health plan's [mental health coverage benefits](#) for medical treatment.

These are all steps that can factor into pushing down this latest surge of COVID-19 cases and managing our mental health. Thank you for your effort to protect your own well-being and the well-being of your fellow Ohioans. Please celebrate safely this holiday season.

Agent Licensing Renewal Notifications Change

Starting January 1, 2021 the Ohio Department of Insurance will begin sending license renewal notifications by email instead of U.S. Mail. Renewal notification emails will be sent approximately 90 days, 60 days, and 30 days prior to an agent's license expiration date to email addresses on file with the department. This is a departure from the previous notification schedule, which included a 90-day licensure renewal notification by U.S. Mail and a 30-day electronic licensure renewal notification. [Click here](#) for more information.

Additionally, legislation recently passed that provides a temporary extension of license expiration dates until July 1, 2021 for any license-holder who has a license expiration date that falls between March 9, 2020 thru April 1, 2021. You can find more information about this change on our [Insurance and Coronavirus COVID-19](#) page.

Health Insurance Open Enrollment Periods Underway

This is the time of year when many [employers](#) hold open enrollment into their health insurance plans.

Others seeking health insurance may have enrollment opportunities through the federal health insurance [exchange](#) (Nov. 1-Dec. 15).

Individuals 65 and older may be eligible for [Medicare](#) (Oct. 15-Dec. 7) insurance coverage.

This [guide](#) is a valuable resource to use when shopping for health insurance.



NAIC Updates State Regulatory Response to COVID-19 Report

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), in which the Ohio Department of Insurance is a member, released its [second update](#) regarding the current pandemic and the insurance industry. The latest report outlines the actions taken from June 1 to September 30 to help curtail the impact of the pandemic. Also from the NAIC, be sure to check out the latest The Regulator [podcasts](#).

Ohioans Urged to Prepare for Winter Weather

While Ohioans focus on protecting themselves from COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses such as colds and the flu, the [Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness](#) is also reminding citizens not to forget about the importance of preparing for winter weather and winter emergencies. Visit our [Facebook](#) page for insurance tips.



ODI Chief of Staff and IT Assistant Director Named

[Matt Peters](#) was recently named Chief of Staff of the Ohio Department of Insurance. Peters plays a central role defining agency goals and objectives with a strong focus in public affairs and agency-wide policy. [Tina Chubb](#)

was chosen Assistant Director for Information, Technology, and Security after serving in an interim capacity the past few years

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