

Media Release

Feb. 10, 2021

## GOV. HOGAN ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF STATE HEALTH INSURANCE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD UNTIL MAY 15

(BALTIMORE) — Gov. Larry Hogan and Maryland Health Benefit Exchange announced today that the state health insurance marketplace, Maryland Health Connection, will extend its current special enrollment period. Uninsured Marylanders have the opportunity to enroll in health coverage now until May 15. This deadline aligns with the federal special enrollment period announced by President Joe Biden for those states who use healthcare.gov, the federally run health insurance marketplace.

“After last year's COVID-19 special enrollment period saw record participation, we're pleased to offer even more opportunities for Marylanders to enroll in coverage,” said Governor Hogan. “I strongly encourage Marylanders to consider taking advantage of this extension as we all look forward to a safer and healthier 2021.”

“Maryland Health Connection is eager to align with the federal administration as well as other state marketplaces across the country to make health insurance more accessible as the pandemic continues to have devastating effects,” said Michele Eberle, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Coverage start dates follow:

- Enroll by Feb. 15, coverage starts Feb. 1
- Enroll Feb. 16–March 15, coverage starts March 1
- Enroll March 16–April 15, coverage starts April 1
- Enroll April 16–May 15, coverage starts May 1

Those who are eligible for Medicaid can enroll any time of year. Health coverage through Maryland Health Connection covers costs for coronavirus tests at doctor's offices, urgent care centers or emergency rooms.

Since the pandemic spurred a public health emergency in March 2020, Maryland Health Connection has recognized the invaluable need for health insurance by running a coronavirus special enrollment period. Thus far, more than 125,000 Marylanders have enrolled, most of whom have received free or low-cost coverage.

To learn more about coverage options, visit: [www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov](http://www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov).

Free help is available over the phone from more than 700 certified navigators and brokers: [www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov/find-help/](http://www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov/find-help/) In addition, individuals can call 1-855-642-8572 toll-free from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Help is available in 200 languages. Deaf and hard of hearing use

Relay. Marylanders can also apply for coverage using the free mobile app, Enroll MHC.

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**Maryland Health Benefit Exchange** (MHBE), a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in 2011, administers Maryland Health Connection.

**Maryland Health Connection** (MHC) is the state-based marketplace for Marylanders to shop and enroll in health insurance, as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid and other assistance programs. It is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable.