

First State Insurance Agency

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November 2017

Health Care News:

Time is running out! Don't wait!

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you take the time to go over your Health Care Needs. The newsletter is early this year to make sure we get the word out. You will be getting reminders in the mail from your own health care companies as well.

Open enrollment (the yearly period when you can enroll in a health plan) for 2018 runs from November 1, 2017 to December 15th, 2017. Individuals need to enroll by December 15th 2017 to have coverage by January 1st 2018. Individuals can't enroll in a health insurance plan for the rest of 2018 unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

No one plans to get sick or hurt, bad things can happen to healthy people. If you pay for every medical service yourself, some health care decisions may be based on money, not what is best for your health.

First State Insurance offers Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Sanford Health plans for you to choose from. Come in so we can go over your coverages before the deadline is here. Plans and rates change. **Now is the time to review your plan and make any needed changes.** For our customers that are on the Marketplace- you need to **access your account and update.**

The Marketplace needs to know of income changes if you are receiving subsidy help. Subsidies in the Marketplace help low and some middle income families to purchase insurance. To calculate a subsidy a Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guideline is used. It is a measure of income issued every year by the Department of Health and Human Services. You qualify for the premium subsidy only if you're modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is at 400% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below. This level is used to find out if you qualify for a "premium tax credit" - the amount you pay each month to your insurance plan. Examples to see if you may be eligible for a tax credit using the 400% level: A family of 4 could earn up to \$97,000 or an individual could earn up to \$47,000 and receive a tax credit to help with their premiums. Keep in mind as of this newsletter prices may change. An application has to be filled out to know for sure. Estimating for your expected household income for the 2018 year can start with your adjusted gross income which is found on your tax return. When estimating count yourself, your spouse, plus everyone you'll claim as a tax dependent. When your income changes, so does your premium tax credit. **It's very important to report any changes to the Marketplace.**

Dates to Remember for Medicare Part D:

When you applied for your Medicare coverage you picked out a prescription drug plan to help pay for your prescription drugs. **October 15th - December 7th 2017** is the yearly enrollment period to make changes or switch plans for your prescription drug coverage. Medicare Blue is a stand-alone prescription drug plan we refer you to, the number is 1-888-235-3905. The North Dakota Insurance Dept. can answer any questions you may have about your Medicare drugs also 1-888-575-6611 or visit www.nd.gov/ndins. This service is free and confidential.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In observance of the holiday season, our office will be closed the following days.

*Thanksgiving-November 23rd
& 24th*

*Christmas-December 25th
New Year's Day-January 1st*

During the Holidays things get

hectic, Christmas shopping,

extra family, throw in

unexpected weather, things

don't always go smoothly.

Stress free tips for the Season!

*Do things that make you
happy.*

*Focus on the important
Remember to have fun with
your loved ones!*



*What kind of music
did the Pilgrims like?
Plymouth Rock*

*What do you get when you
cross a turkey with a banjo?
A turkey that can pluck itself!*

*Q: Why are Comet, Cupid,
Donner, and Blitzen always
wet?*

A: Because they are reindeer.

Q: What says Oh Oh Oh?

A: Santa walking backwards!

*Q: Why is everyone so thirsty
at the north pole?*

A: No well, no well!

*Q: What do you call a cat in the
desert?*

A: Sandy Claws!

In every newsletter we go over important parts of an insurance policy.

The November letter will touch on Personal Injury, Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability and Incidental Motorized Land Conveyances.

Personal Injury is an endorsement that provides coverage for injury arising out of false arrest, detention or imprisonment, or malicious prosecution; libel, slander or defamation of character; invasion of privacy; or wrongful eviction or wrongful entry. The homeowner's policy liability section covers only "bodily injury" and "property damage." Any type of non-bodily injury is excluded without the attachment of a personal injury endorsement. One of the biggest and particularly problematic is with the rapid growth in social media.

TIPS TO MANAGE EXPOSURES:

- Exercise caution when posting, anything negative you share is permanent.
- Be careful and have your facts straight if posting.
- Provide strict ground rules for your children on social media. Monitor their activities. Keep the computer in a public part of the home.

A personal injury endorsement with sufficient limits provides protection for a claim. Also purchasing a personal umbrella policy helps provide higher liability limits for a variety of personal liability claims. Remember this endorsement does not provide protection for business-related activities.

HIRED AND NON-OWNED AUTO LIABILITY:

This Business endorsement is used when the named insured does not own vehicles and does not have commercial automobile coverage. The liability section of the Business Auto Policy provides protection for bodily injury and property damage for which the insured company is liable. Hired and Non-owned Auto Liability helps employers make sure their policies provide coverage for "non-owned" and "hired" autos. The company is protected if an employee causes an accident. Exposures for this would include employee's using vehicle to go get the mail, pick up lunch, etc.

Hired autos are autos the insured leases, hires, or borrows, but not from employees or members of their households or any partners or executive officers of the insured.

Non-owned autos are autos not owned, leased, or borrowed by the insured but used in the business. Remember when you borrow another business vehicle you have their limits.

INCIDENTAL MOTORIZED LAND

CONVEYANCES:

Thinking of giving your daughter a motorized Barbie Car for Christmas? We can help with that. This endorsement adds coverage for

vehicles (not golf carts, motorized bicycles or mopeds) not licensed for road use and incapable of going more than 15 MPH, or used in business.

DRONES:

They are a hot Christmas item! Check with your homeowners' or renters to see what type of coverage you have. You may have no liability protection from damages or injuries as a result of a drone.

CROP INSURANCE: Production reports were sent out in September, please fill in production, sign and return so we can begin the APH process to establish your coverage for 2018.

REMINDER: Revenue loss notice's required no later than 45 days after the latest date the harvest price is released.

We offer Flood and Earthquake coverage.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

The year is coming to an end faster than ever, and we want to THANK YOU for your support through-out the year, we truly appreciate all you do for us. We hope you all had a very profitable and blessed 2017 and wish the same for you and your families in the upcoming year.

One last note regarding healthcare, please make sure you are paying close attention to the deadlines for Medicare Part D, and those who are on the marketplace receiving subsidies.

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS A SAFE AND WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

KEVIN, PATTY, EVETTE, LINDA AND MORGAN

FIRST STATE INSURANCE AGENCY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.