

**Welcome!**

Welcome to the first NY State of Health Newsletter of 2021 from your Marketplace Advocacy Team here at Bond Benefit Consulting. As we mentioned throughout your open enrollment process, you will receive a newsletter highlighting pertinent information regarding health insurance and the individual marketplace. New this year, individual dental coverage through Excellus is now being offered! More information regarding the dental plans later on. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call your Marketplace Advocacy Team at Bond; our information is provided at the end of the newsletter. Thank you for trusting Bond as your personal health insurance consultant and we hope you have a great start to 2021!

**Excellus New for 2021 – INDIVIDUAL DENTAL**

New for 2021, Excellus is now offering 2 individual dental plans. Blue Select and Blue Select Premier for individuals and families. Please see Excellus dental brochure explaining this new dental coverage.



The NYS of Health, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, have been automatically extending Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Essential Plan cases for an additional 12 months of coverage. This is to inform you that they are continuing these extensions in accordance with the federal public health emergency. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Essential Plan cases with a coverage end date through 3/31/21 will be extended for an additional 12 month period. The NYS of Health will let us know if further extensions are planned.

Governor Cuomo Announces Open Enrollment for New Yorkers is Extended through 2021 as Federal Marketplace Reopens for Millions of Americans.

Coverage start dates will vary:

- Enroll by April 15: Coverage starts May 1
- Enroll by May 15: Coverage starts June 1
- Enroll by June 15: Coverage starts July 1

NY State of Health Important Tax Documentation:**Form 1095-A**

If you are an individual or family that had health insurance through the NY State of Health or Healthcare.gov at any point in 2019, you may have already received a mailing from the Marketplace that included a 1095-A form that may be of use to complete your 2019 federal tax return. Please provide this form to your tax professional. If you take care of your own taxes, follow the instructions when the system asks what type of health insurance coverage you had for 2019. If you do not receive one and wish to obtain a copy or speak directly to NYSOH regarding your 1095-A, you may call 1-855-766-7860. If you have any tax specific questions, please ask your tax professional. Bond does not provide tax or legal advice.

***If you are expecting to receive a Form 1095-A, you should wait to file your income tax return until you receive that form. However, it is not necessary to wait for Forms 1095-B or 1095-C in order to file. ... While the information on these forms may assist in preparing a return, they are not required.

COVID-19 is still spreading, even as the vaccine is here.

Wear a mask, social distance and stay up to date on New York's vaccination program.

Are you 65 or will you be turning 65 soon?

Bond Benefits Consulting provides additional insurance services in the area of Medicare Advantage plans. If you or a loved one are 65 years old or will be turning 65 in the next few months, please feel free to reach out to Mark Shannon by phone or email and he would be more than happy to assist you in decision making and enrollment process.



Holly's Spinach Tortellini Soup

- 2 tsp butter
- 2 stalks of celery, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 carrot, peeled & chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 8 cups chicken broth, (or sub vegetable broth)
- 3 cups water
- 1 small Parmigiano Reggiano Rind, optional
- 18 oz spinach cheese tortellini
- 1/2 tsp fresh ground pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 cups baby spinach
- salt to taste
- Parmigiano Reggiano, grated (optional)

Directions:

In a large pot, melt the butter over medium-low heat.
When melted, add the celery, onion, carrot & garlic.
Cover and reduce heat to low and cook for approximately 8-10 minutes until vegetables begin to soften.
Add the chicken broth, water, parmesan cheese rind and increase heat to medium-high and bring to a boil.
When broth boils, add salt (to taste), pepper and nutmeg. Stir to combine.
Reduce heat to low and add tortellini. Simmer until tortellini cooks to al dente according to package directions.
Once cooked, remove the rind, and add the baby spinach.
Stir to combine then serve with freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to read our 1st Newsletter of 2021! If you have any family or friends that have questions about their health insurance options, regardless if they have health insurance through their employer, the individual marketplace, or Medicare, please feel free to give them Mark Shannon's and Holly Tucker's contact information below.

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