



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
Risk Management Division  
Employee Benefits

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**DATE:** October 21, 2016  
**TO:** Early Retirees  
**FROM:** Cari Griffin, Employee Benefits Manager  
**SUBJECT:** **2017 OPEN ENROLLMENT**

Each year, the County conducts Open Enrollment to allow eligible participants the opportunity to enroll in health insurance or make health plan changes that best meet their needs. **The Open Enrollment period this year is from October 26, 2016 through November 14, 2016.** Eligible participants are only able to enroll or make changes to their benefit selections for the 2017 plan year during these specific dates. All new enrollments and changes will become effective on January 1, 2017.

This year's Open Enrollment will be "passive," meaning the benefits you currently have will continue into 2017. If you are not making any changes to your benefit selections for the 2017 plan year, Employee Benefits does not require you to return the Benefit Enrollment Form. **You are only required to submit enrollment documentation if you wish to make changes to your benefit selections for the 2017 plan year.** Future plan years may require active participation and the "passive" enrollment may change from year to year.

All documentation for any changes you wish to make must be submitted to Employee Benefits no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2016. Documentation includes the Benefit Enrollment Form, birth certificate, marriage license, etc. (refer to the Benefit Guide for more details).

### **Medical Insurance**

Medical insurance rates are increasing 4.9% for the 2017 plan year. As in 2016, the County is offering medical plan selections to eligible participants based on where they live. The County is offering the Stanislaus County Partners in Health (SCPH) plans for those participants who live in the local service area. A map of the local service area with applicable zip codes is included in the Benefit Guide for your review. Alternatively, for those participants who live outside the local service area, the County is offering the Anthem Blue Cross plan. The County will continue to offer an Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) for both medical insurance plans. **If you have moved, you are required to update your address information to ensure that you are enrolled in the correct health plan based on your zip code.**

### **Open Enrollment Resources**

Enclosed is your 2017 Early Retiree Benefit Guide and Benefit Enrollment form. To further assist you in evaluating plan choices for 2017, specific information and details on each of the County's medical benefit plans and instructions on how to access the services is located on the [Medical Benefits](#) web page. You can also access the [Early Retiree Open Enrollment](#) materials online.

For immediate questions regarding the Open Enrollment process or County health insurance information, please send an email to [earlyretirees@stancounty.com](mailto:earlyretirees@stancounty.com) or call (209) 525-5717. Please be advised that during the Wellness Connect 2016 events, we will have limited staff in the office so you may experience delays in response to phone calls and e-mails.

### **Wellness Connect 2016 – Come to Life!**

As we advised you previously, because there are no major plan changes, we will not be having our usual Open Enrollment seminar with formal presentations from our vendor representatives. In lieu of our traditional Open Enrollment presentations, the County has developed a new program entitled Wellness Connect and you are welcome to join us at one of these events to meet face to face with a vendor representative or County Benefits Staff to have your questions about your health benefits answered. You will also have the opportunity to visit the DMC area to get a free flu shot and free health screenings.

The Wellness Connect 2016 events will be held on four dates at four locations as listed here for your convenience:

Wednesday, October 26 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street Place, 9 AM to 3 PM

Thursday, October 27 – HSA/BHRS Facility on Scenic Drive, 9 AM to 3 PM

Friday, October 28 – CSA Facility on Hackett Road, 9 AM to 3 PM

Monday, October 31 – Harvest Hall on Cornucopia Way, 9 AM to 3 PM

**We look forward to seeing you at Wellness Connect 2016!**

**Don't forget, the deadline for submitting documentation to Employee Benefits for changes to your benefit selections is 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2016.**