

Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program

State and Higher-ed Edition | October 2023

# Ready, set, enroll: 2024 open enrollment

**Open enrollment is November 1 through 30, 2023.** Find forms on the *Open enrollment* webpage at **hca.wa.gov/pebb-oe**. (Washington State University and University of Washington employees use Workday.)

#### What is open enrollment?

Open enrollment is a period of time that happens once a year, typically in the fall, when you can make changes to your coverage.

# What can I change during open enrollment?

You can make the changes listed below during open enrollment, November 1 through 30. Changes are effective January 1, 2024.

Premiums for some plans are increasing significantly for 2024. You should check your current plan for any changes to the benefits and premiums. If you do not want to change medical and dental plans, and they are still available in your county for next year, you do not need to do anything to stay enrolled in the same plans.

#### Use PEBB My Account (hca.wa.gov/my-account) to:

- Change your medical or dental plan.
- Remove a dependent.
- Waive medical coverage if you have other employerbased group medical, a TRICARE plan, or Medicare.
- Enroll in medical coverage if you previously waived.
- Attest to the spouse or state-registered domestic partner coverage premium surcharge. (You will receive a letter if you need to reattest.)
- Update your tobacco attestations if you have changes.

**Note:** To add a dependent, use the *PEBB Employee Enroll-ment/Change* form.

! If you are unable to use PEBB My Account, you can use the *PEBB Employee Enrollment/Change* form. The form is available online or from your payroll or benefits office. Your payroll or benefits office must receive your form by November 30.

# Visit Navia Benefit Solutions to enroll in an FSA or DCAP

Enroll in a flexible spending arrangement (FSA) or the Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) on Navia's website at **pebb.naviabenefits.com**. You can also submit the *Navia Open Enrollment* form to Navia. You must enroll in these benefits again every year you want to participate. See page 7 for more about FSA/DCAP.

#### 5 tips for a smooth open enrollment

- **Check** the plans available in the county you live in to make sure your plan is still available.
- Review what's changing. Find your monthly premiums and look over any changes to your current plan. Some premiums are increasing significantly for 2024.
- Make any changes in PEBB My Account, like changing your medical plan or removing dependents, by November 30, 2023.
- Stay connected. Sign up for emails and follow HCA on social media.
- Need help? Ask your payroll or benefits office.

# Benefits 24/7 launch rescheduled

The launch date for Benefits 24/7, the new online enrollment system, has been rescheduled. The launch is now planned for January 2024. For more information, visit the Benefits 24/7 announcement at hca.wa.gov/benefits247-newportal. Prior to the launch of Benefits 24/7, the PEBB Program will send you an updated quick start guide to help you navigate the new online system.

### **Important changes to your 2024 PEBB benefits**

All changes are effective January 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Learn more about the changes listed below and other changes on the *Open enrollment* webpage at **hca.wa.gov/pebb-oe**. Any updates that happen after this newsletter mails will be listed on the *Open enrollment* webpage, so we recommend you check there for the latest information

! Many premiums are increasing for 2024; see page 3. It's a good time to look at what the plans offer versus the cost to make sure that the plan you choose is meeting your health care needs and goals.

#### **Changes to all PEBB plans**

- Deductible for high-deductible health plans: The IRS raised the minimum deductible for high-deductible health plans to \$1,600 for single subscribers and \$3,200 for families. This affects consumer-directed health plans (CDHPs), including Kaiser Permanente of the Northwest CDHP, Kaiser Permanente of Washington CDHP, and Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) CDHP.
- Health savings accounts (HSAs): The IRS raised the health savings account annual maximum contribution to \$4,150 for single subscribers and \$8,300 for families.
- Flexible spending arrangements (FSAs): The annual maximum contribution for Medical and Limited Purpose FSAs increased to \$3,050.
- Medical FSA contribution for represented employees: Represented employees who make \$60,000 or less per year may be eligible to receive a Medical FSA contribution of \$250 in January 2024. (The previous income limit was \$50,004.)
- **SmartHealth:** Will be administered by WebMD starting in January 2024, bringing you a new look and new features. You will still be able to participate in activities and challenges and qualify for the wellness incentive.

#### **Health plan changes**



#### **Kaiser Permanente of the Northwest:**

• **Hearing aids:** Members can use the hearing aid benefit of \$3,000 per ear every 36 months.

#### **Kaiser Permanente of Washington:**

- Prescriptions: Members can refill maintenance drugs at network retail pharmacies. The First Fill program has been removed.
- **Hearing aids:** Members can use the hearing aid benefit of \$3,000 per ear every 36 months.

- Chiropractic, acupuncture, and massage: Members will have 24 covered visits per year for each benefit (instead of 10 chiropractic, 12 acupuncture, and 16 massage, or combined with therapy limit).
- **Treatment for metabolic disorders:** Members will pay plan deductibles and coinsurance for treatment for metabolic disorders, including phenylketonuria (PKU).
- **Copays:** The copays for many services are changing. Visit **kp.org/wa/pebb** for more information.



#### **Uniform Medical Plan (UMP):**

- Hearing aids: Members can use the hearing aid benefit, up to \$3,000 per ear for prescribed hearing aids, every 3 years.
- **COVID-19 test kits:** Members can get up to two overthe-counter COVID-19 test kits per month. This benefit covers up to \$12 per test kit under the prescription drug benefit. This became effective July 1, 2023.
- UMP Plus-University of Washington Medicine
   Accountable Care Network: Will expand to Benton
   and Franklin counties, but will no longer be available
   in Kitsap County. UW ACN members in Kitsap County
   must change plans.
- Centers of Excellence (COE) for spine care: MultiCare
   Capital Medical Center will no longer participate in the
   COE Program for spine care. Virginia Mason Medical
   Center will continue to serve members through its COE
   Program for knee and hip joint replacement and for
   spine care.

#### **Rule changes**

All changes to PEBB rules will be available on the HCA website at **hca.wa.gov/pebb-rules** and take effect January 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Here is a change that might affect you:

• Moving out of a medical plan's coverage area: If a subscriber moves their residence, and their previously selected medical plan is no longer available in the new location, they must change their medical plan within the timeframe allowed by the special open enrollment. If they don't choose a new medical plan within the timeframe, the Health Care Authority will enroll them in a new medical plan.

### 2024 PEBB employee medical monthly premiums

These premiums are effective January 1, 2024, for state agency and higher-education employees. You do not pay premiums for dental, basic life, basic accidental death and dismemberment, or employer-paid long-term disability insurance benefits.

- Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest offers plans in Clark and Cowlitz counties in Washington and select counties in Oregon.
- Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) is administered by Regence BlueShield and Washington State Rx Services.
- UMP Plus includes UMP Plus-Puget Sound High Value Network and UMP Plus-UW Medicine Accountable Care Network. The premium is the same for both.
- The term "spouse" is interchangable with "stateregistered domestic partner."

	Plans									
	Kaiser Permanente NW		Kaiser Permanente WA				Uniform Medical Plan			
	Classic	CDHP	Classic	CDHP	SoundChoice	Value	Classic	CDHP	Select	UMP Plus
Subscriber only	\$331	\$195	\$226	\$26	\$69	\$211	\$124	\$35	\$59	\$109
Subscriber & spouse	\$662	\$390	\$452	\$52	\$138	\$422	\$248	\$70	\$118	\$218
Subscriber & children	\$579	\$341	\$396	\$46	\$121	\$369	\$217	\$61	\$103	\$191
Subscriber, spouse, & children	\$910	\$536	\$622	\$72	\$190	\$580	\$341	\$96	\$162	\$300

#### **Premium surcharges**

Two premium surcharges may apply, in addition to your monthly medical premium. You will be charged for them if the conditions described below apply, or if you do not attest to the surcharges.

- A monthly \$25-per-account premium surcharge will apply if you or any dependent (age 13 or older) enrolled in PEBB medical uses tobacco products.
- A monthly \$50 premium surcharge will apply if you enroll a spouse or state-registered domestic partner and they have chosen not to enroll in another employer-based group medical plan that is comparable to UMP Classic.

# **Share Your Story Spotlight**

We asked our community of members — public and school employees, retirees, and continuation coverage members — to share some of the ways their benefits have affected their lives, and we hope you enjoy the story we featured. Would you like to share your story and inspire others? Visit **hca.wa.gov/share-your-story** to get started.

"The wonderful health benefits the PEBB Program provides allowed me to finally get the genealogical care I needed to help with long-term pain and bleeding I experienced. The great coverage helped to pay for my surgery and with a low out-of-pocket maximum — I wasn't stuck paying a huge bill for years and years. I am now comfortable, pain free, and medication free! I just take my vitamins and have been able to get back to running, which I love. All of this has been due to the amazing benefits the PEBB Program provides."

—Heidi

### Meet us at the in-person benefits fairs

During open enrollment, you can learn more about your health plans and other insurance options by attending one of the PEBB Program benefits fairs. Find maps, parking information, presentation schedules, and additional details at **hca.wa.gov/pebb-fairs**. Please check the website for any late changes before you go.

These benefits fairs are sponsored by University of Washington (UW). The PEBB Program is attending.

#### Seattle / UW

October 23 Noon to 7 p.m.

University of Washington Harborview Medical Center

• 300 9th Ave.

#### Seattle / UW

October 24

Noon to 7 p.m.

University of Washington Health Sciences Building

• 1959 NE Pacific St.

#### Seattle / UW

October 25 Noon to 7 p.m.

University of Washington UW Medical Center – Northwest E-Wing Auditorium

• 1550 N 115th St.

#### Seattle / UW

October 30

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

University of Washington Husky Union Building

• 4001 E. Stevens Way NE

#### **Spokane**

November 1

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Spokane Community College Lair Student Center

• 1801 N. Greene St.

#### Vancouver

November 1

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Clark College Gaiser Hall Student Center

• 1933 Fort Vancouver Way

#### Centralia

November 2

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Community Events Building

• 1909 S. Gold St.

#### Cheney

November 2

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Eastern Washington University Hargreaves Hall – Library

• 616 Study Lane

#### Olympia / Lacey

**November 3** 

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees South Puget Sound Community College Lacey Campus Building • 4220 6th Ave. S.E.

Lacey

#### Pullman

November 3

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**3 p.m. to 6 p.m.** – Employees Washington State University Compton Union Building

1500 Glenn Terrell Mall

#### Bellingham

November 6

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Whatcom Community College Pavilion (PAV)

241 W. Kellogg Rd.

#### Pasco

November 6

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m**. – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Columbia Basin College Hawk Union Building (H Building) Byron Gjerde Center

2600 N. 20th Ave.

#### **Everett**

**November 7** 

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Everett Community College Henry M. Jackson Conference Center • 2000 Tower St.

#### Yakima

**November 7** 

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Yakima Convention and Event Center **№** 10 N. 8th St.

#### **Ellensburg**

**November 8** 

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Central Washington University Student Union and Recreation Center • 1007 N. Chestnut St.

#### Seattle / Shoreline

**November 8** 

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Shoreline Community College Pagoda Student Union Building (Building 9000)

• 16101 Greenwood Ave. N. Shoreline

#### Tacoma / Lakewood

November 9

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Clover Park Technical College McGavick Conference Center <sup>⁰</sup> 4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW Lakewood

#### **Bremerton**

November 14

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Olympic College Student Center •• 1600 Chester Ave.

#### **Port Angeles**

November 14

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m**. – Retirees and retiring employees

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Employees Red Lion Hotel Port Angeles Harbor 221 N. Lincoln



And don't forget the virtual benefits fair is open 24/7 at hca.wa.gov/vbf-pebb.



## **Reminders for open enrollment**

#### Make changes in PEBB My Account beginning November 1

Some changes can be made online in PEBB My Account at hca.wa.gov/my-account. If changes cannot be made online, PEBB My Account will direct you to the correct forms

Forms and other information will be available on our *Open enrollment* webpage at **hca.wa.gov/pebb-oe**. Changes must be made or forms must be received by November 30.

# Reattest to the spouse or state-registered domestic partner coverage premium surcharge

The PEBB Program will mail you a letter if you must reattest for 2024. You can also check whether you need to reattest in PEBB My Account, starting November 1. You can reattest in PEBB My Account or submit the PEBB Premium Surcharge Attestation Change Form.

# Is your mailing address up to date?

Let your payroll or benefits office know of your new address.

# Sign up for email delivery

You can receive For Your Benefit and other general updates by email. To sign up for email delivery:

- Visit PEBB My Account at hca.wa.gov/my-account.
- Go to the *My medical/dental coverage* tob.
- Under Section A Subscriber Account Information, select Subscribe/unsubscribe to email service.

# You cannot be enrolled in both PEBB and SEBB coverage, or on more than one PEBB account

If you are eligible for enrollment in both the PEBB and SEBB Programs, you are limited to a single enrollment in medical and dental (in the PEBB Program) or medical, dental, and vision (in the SEBB Program). You must choose which program you want to be enrolled in. If you do not take action to resolve the dual enrollment, the PEBB or the SEBB Program will automatically enroll or disenroll you as described in both WAC 182-12-123(6) and 182-31-070(6).

Also, you cannot be enrolled in more than one PEBB account. For instance, if you and your spouse or state-registered domestic partner are both eligible for PEBB coverage, you cannot be enrolled in your own account as well as theirs.

# Do you know about your optional insurance benefits?

Your benefits include supplemental life, accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance (administered by MetLife), and employee-paid long-term disability (LTD) insurance (administered by The Standard). These benefits can help you provide for yourself and your loved ones.

# Enroll in supplemental life and AD&D

Use MetLife's MyBenefits Portal at **mybenefits.metlife.com** to enroll in supplemental life and AD&D insurance and add beneficiaries. If you are unable to access the portal, you can request a *MetLife Enrollment/Change* form and Beneficiary Designation form by calling MetLife at 1-866-548-7139 or contacting your payroll or benefits office.

# Already have AD&D or supplemental life?

Has it been a while since you thought about your life and AD&D insurance beneficiaries? You can easily designate or update your beneficiaries at mybenefits.metlife.com/wapebb.

#### **Change your LTD coverage**

Besides the employer-paid LTD insurance you get at no charge if you are eligible, you are also automatically enrolled in employee-paid LTD. You will be defaulted to a 60-percent plan when you are first hired. However, you have the option to change to a 50-percent plan or to decline the coverage.

To learn more about these optional benefits, visit **hca.wa.gov/ pebb-employee**.

#### Who to contact for help

**Contact your plan** if you have questions about the topics below. For phone numbers and web addresses, visit **hca.wa.gov/pebb-employee** and select *Get help* and *Contact the plans*.

- Benefits
- ID cards
- Claims
- Checking if your provider is in their network
- Choosing a provider
- Making sure your prescriptions are covered

# Contact your employer's payroll or benefits office for questions about:

- Eligibility and enrollment
- Premium surcharges
- Changing your name, address, or phone number
- Finding forms
- Adding or removing dependents
- Payroll deductions
- Eligibility and enrollment for life, AD&D, and long-term disability insurance

### Save money with an FSA or DCAP

Navia Benefit Solutions administers three tax-advantaged benefits: a Medical Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA), a Limited Purpose FSA, and a Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP). Each of these benefits allows you to set aside money from your paycheck before taxes to use for out-of-pocket costs. The Medical FSA reimburses eligible expenses for medical, vision, and dental care. The Limited Purpose FSA reimburses eligible expenses for vision and dental care. DCAP reimburses you for certain child or elder care costs.

**Note:** You cannot enroll in both a Medical FSA and a consumer-directed health plan (CDHP) with a health savings account (HSA) in the same year, but you can enroll in a Limited Purpose FSA if you enroll in a CDHP. Also, you cannot enroll in both a Medical FSA and a Limited Purpose FSA in the same year.



#### Remember to reenroll

Do you already have an FSA or DCAP? Remember, you must enroll in the Medical FSA, Limited Purpose FSA, or DCAP each year you want to participate. Enroll in these benefits during annual open enrollment, November 1 through 30, on Navia's website at **pebb.naviabenefits.com**. (University of Washington and Washington State University employees use Workday.)

#### **Deadlines for 2023 claims**

FSA or DCAP expenses must be incurred by December 31, 2023. You must submit all claims to Navia Benefit Solutions for reimbursement by March 31, 2024.

#### 2024 FSA contributions and carryover

For the Medical FSA and Limited Purpose FSA, you choose how much to contribute — between \$120 and \$3,050 for 2024. If you do not use all the funds for the year, you may qualify to carry over up to \$610 to the next plan year. To qualify for carryover, you must either a) enroll in an FSA the following plan year to carry over any amount up to \$610, or b) have at least \$120 remaining in your account to carry over any balance between \$120 and \$610 (for option b you do not need to reenroll).

If you currently have a Medical FSA and decide to enroll in a CDHP for 2024, any remaining funds between \$120 and \$610 will be moved to a Limited Purpose FSA.

# You might qualify for a \$250 Medical FSA contribution

If you are a union-represented public employee and PEBB subscriber whose annual rate of pay, as of November 1, 2023, is \$60,000 or less, you could qualify for a \$250 Medical FSA contribution in 2024. (**Note:** Your union must be a member of the coalition described in **RCW 41.80.020(3)**. To learn if your union qualifies, contact your union representative.) This contribution is employer-paid and will not come out of your paycheck. You do not need to sign up or take action to receive these funds. The only thing you need to do is spend your \$250 on eligible out-of-pocket medical, vision, or dental costs!

#### Want to know more?

Visit Navia's website at **pebb.naviabenefits.com** and view the Medical FSA, Limited Purpose FSA, or DCAP enrollment guide. Or, call Navia at 1-800-669-3539 between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



# **Explore your benefits**

Use HCA's website to explore resources to help you during open enrollment.



#### Learn about changes to your plan and costs on the *Open enrollment* webpage at hca.wa.gov/pebb-oe.

- Find your premiums. (Many premiums are increasing.)
- Review changes to your current coverage.
- Register for a webinar.



# Make changes using PEBB My Account at hca.wa.gov/my-account.

Log in to PEBB My Account November 1 to 30, 2023, to make changes to your coverage. Paper forms are available from your payroll or benefits office. (WSU & UW employees use Workday.)



# Compare plan benefits with the benefits comparison tool at hca. wa.gov/compare-medical-pebb.

- Select your member type and where you live.
- Compare up to three plans at a time.





# Explore your coverage options at the virtual benefits fair at hca.wa.gov/vbf-pebb.

It's a great way to learn about your plan options anytime. You'll find videos, plan comparisons, webinars, benefits booklets, and contact information to help you choose benefits for you and your family. You can also attend an in-person benefits fair in your area. See the locations at hca.wa.gov/pebb-fairs.

**Visit the plan websites for questions** about specific benefits, coverage, or to check if a provider is in-network.

#### **Medical plans**

- Kaiser Permanente NW: my.kp.org/wapebb
- Kaiser Permanente WA: kp.org/wa/pebb
- Uniform Medical Plan: ump.regence.com/pebb

#### **Dental plans**

- DeltaCare: deltadentalwa.com/pebb
- Willamette Dental:
  willamettedental.com/wapebb
- Uniform Dental Plan: deltadentalwa.com/pebb



Required federal notice

# Summary of benefits and coverage available to you

The Affordable Care Act requires the PEBB Program and its medical plans to provide a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC). These documents help you compare medical plan benefits, terms, and your costs for care from network and out-of-network providers.

To get an SBC for your current PEBB medical plan, go to the *Medical plans and benefits* webpage at **hca.wa.gov/pebb-employee** (or the plan's website) to

view or print it. Or, call your plan to ask for a paper copy at no charge. Your plan can also provide copies translated into other languages.

For questions, call the PEBB Program at 1-800-200-1004 (TRS: 711).

Required federal notice

### **Annual notice of creditable prescription drug coverage**

You will receive this notice each year in this newsletter, and you will also receive this notice if your PEBB coverage changes. You may request a copy of this notice at any time by calling the PEBB Program at 1-800-200-1004 (TRS: 711).

If you or a family member is (or will soon be) enrolled in Medicare, you may hear about your opportunity to enroll in Medicare Part D for prescription drug coverage.

Premera Blue Cross Medicare Supplement plans do not provide creditable prescription drug coverage. If you enroll in one, you will need to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan outside of PEBB.

All other PEBB medical plans provide creditable prescription drug coverage, so you do not have to enroll in Medicare Part D. The prescription drug coverage offered by these PEBB medical plans is expected to pay out, on average, as much as Medicare Part D coverage.

When you enroll in Medicare, you can keep your PEBB medical plan with creditable drug coverage and not pay a penalty if you enroll in Medicare Part D later.

If you enroll in a Medicare Part D plan, your PEBB medical plan may not coordinate prescription drug benefits with Medicare Part D.

# If you lose or terminate your current PEBB medical plan

To avoid paying a higher Medicare Part D plan late-enrollment penalty, you should enroll in a Medicare Part D plan within 63 days after your PEBB medical plan ends. If you enroll after the 63-day deadline, your Part D plan's monthly premium may increase, depending on how long you don't have creditable prescription drug coverage.

#### For questions about Medicare Part D

Visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website at **medicare.gov** or call 1-800-633-4227.



PO Box 42684 Olympia, WA 98504-2684

# Here's your For Your Benefit newsletter

