



COBRA Election Notice

Dear EMPLOYEE/FAMILY:

You recently experienced a qualifying event under the City of San Rafael group health plan(s). As a result, your coverage, and that of your covered dependent(s), if any, will end on the date(s) set forth on the COBRA Continuation Election Form accompanying this letter. Under the provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) this entitles you and your covered dependent(s) if any, to elect to continue coverage (referred to as COBRA coverage) under the plan(s) enrolled as active member(s). The first day of COBRA coverage and the maximum continuation period is determined by plan. Please refer to your COBRA Election Form enclosed to determine your first day of COBRA coverage and maximum continuation period ("Last Day of COBRA").

How to Elect COBRA Coverage

Under COBRA, you have a limited number of days to elect continuation coverage. Your election window is determined by the plan and is calculated from the date your coverage under the plan is lost because of the event described above or the date this notice of your election rights is sent to you, whichever is later. To elect COBRA coverage, you must complete and submit the enclosed election form to Human Resources ("HR") no later than the Election Period End date ("Last Day to Elect") listed on the enclosed COBRA Election Form. COBRA gives you the right to elect coverage independently, you, your spouse or dependent child(ren), if any, may elect single coverage and not include those individuals who do not wish to continue coverage.

Alternatives to COBRA Coverage

In addition to COBRA coverage, other health coverage options may be available to you, such as coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov or 1-800-318-2596. You may also be eligible to enroll in coverage through Medicaid or another group health plan (like a spouse's plan), if you request enrollment within 30 days of the loss of coverage.

When can I enroll in Marketplace coverage?

You always have 60 days from the time you lose your job-based coverage to enroll in the Marketplace. That is because losing your job-based health coverage is a "special enrollment" event. After 60 days your special enrollment period will end and you may not be able to enroll, so you should take action right away. In addition, during what is called an "open enrollment" period, anyone can enroll in Marketplace coverage.

To find out more about enrolling in the Marketplace, such as when the next open enrollment period will be and what you need to know about qualifying events and special enrollment periods, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

Payment of COBRA Coverage Premiums

The current amount of premiums and the due date for payment are listed on the enclosed COBRA Election Form. Premiums may change in the future.

Length of COBRA Coverage Period

If you and your spouse or dependent child(ren), if any, elect coverage, it can last for a maximum continuation period ("Last Day of COBRA") beginning on the date of your qualifying event, or loss of coverage, whichever is later. The first day of COBRA coverage will be determined by the plan. The continuation period may be extended for the following reasons:

1. Death of employee, divorce, legal separation or change in dependent status

If these events occur during the original maximum continuation period of COBRA coverage, the period of coverage for your spouse and dependent child(ren), if any, may be extended. These events extend the original maximum continuation period of COBRA coverage only if they would have caused your spouse or dependent child(ren), if any, to lose coverage under the plan if the original qualifying event had not occurred. Note that to receive this extension, you and/or your spouse and dependent child(ren), must notify HR within 60 days of the occurrence of these events.

2. Medicare entitlement of employee

If you became entitled to Medicare BEFORE your qualifying event, COBRA laws allow you to remain eligible for up to 18 months of COBRA coverage. However, your spouse and dependent child(ren), if any, may receive extended COBRA coverage for up to the greater of either: (a) 36 months from the date of your Medicare entitlement; or (b) 18 months from the date of your qualifying event, or loss of coverage, whichever is later.

If you become entitled to Medicare AFTER your qualifying event but within the original maximum continuation period of your qualifying event, your spouse and dependent child(ren), if any, may receive an additional 18 months of COBRA coverage. Note that a person generally has become entitled to Medicare when he or she has applied for Social Security income payments or has filed an application for benefits under Part A or Part B of Medicare.

3. Disability determination

If it is determined that you and/or your spouse or dependent child(ren), if any, were determined to be disabled (by the Social Security Administration) during the first 60 days of COBRA coverage and you are still disabled at the end of your original maximum continuation period of coverage, the original maximum continuation period may be extended for an additional 11 months for all individuals covered under COBRA coverage from the date of the qualifying event. This extension only applies if HR is notified within 60 days of a disability determination and before the end of the original maximum continuation period. Federal law requires that you notify HR of a determination by the Social Security Administration that you, your spouse, or dependent child(ren) are no longer disabled within 30 days of such a determination.

4. Bankruptcy filing

If the employer files for bankruptcy reorganization and retiree health coverage is lost within one year before or after the bankruptcy filing, COBRA coverage could continue until the death of a retiree (or a surviving spouse of a deceased retiree) or for 36 months from the retiree's death (after the bankruptcy filing) in the case of the spouse and dependent child(ren).

Newborns and Adoptees

A child who is born to or placed for adoption with you during a period of COBRA coverage will be eligible to become covered under the plan. In accordance with the terms of the City of San Rafael group health benefits

plan and the requirements of Federal law, these qualified beneficiaries can be added to COBRA coverage upon proper notification to HR of the birth or adoption.

Early Termination of COBRA Coverage

COBRA coverage may terminate early if:

- (1) The required premium payment is not paid when due.
- (2) After the date of your COBRA election, you and your spouse or dependent child(ren), if any, become covered under another group health plan.
- (3) After the date of your COBRA election, you, your spouse or dependent child(ren), if any, become entitled to Medicare benefits.
- (4) All of City of San Rafael group health plans are terminated.
- (5) If coverage is extended an additional 11 months due to disability, a determination that the individual is no longer disabled.
- (6) COBRA coverage may also be terminated for any reason the plan would terminate coverage of a participant or beneficiary not receiving COBRA coverage (such as fraud).

Continuation coverage under COBRA is provided subject to your eligibility. The Plan reserves the right to terminate your COBRA coverage retroactively if you are determined to be ineligible for coverage. To be sure that you, your spouse and your dependent child(ren), if any, receive the necessary information concerning your rights, you should keep HR informed of any address changes.

If you sign up for COBRA continuation coverage, you can switch to a Marketplace plan during a Marketplace open enrollment period. You can also end your COBRA continuation coverage early and switch to a Marketplace plan if you have another qualifying event such as marriage or birth of a child through something called a "special enrollment period." If you terminate COBRA continuation early without another qualifying event, you'll have to wait to enroll in Marketplace coverage until the next open enrollment period and may be without health coverage in the interim. When you've exhausted COBRA continuation and the coverage expires, you'll be eligible to enroll in Marketplace coverage through a special enrollment period even if the Marketplace open enrollment has ended. If you sign up for Marketplace coverage instead of COBRA, you cannot switch to COBRA continuation coverage.

This notice doesn't fully describe continuation coverage or other rights under the Plan. More information about continuation coverage and your rights under the Plan is available in your summary plan description or from the Plan Administrator.

If you have questions about the information in this notice, your rights to coverage, or if you want a copy of your summary plan description, please contact Human Resources at (415) 485-3063.

ATENCIÓN: Servicios de asistencia lingüística están a su disposición, sin cargo alguno. Llame al (415) 485-3063.

For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, visit the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) website at www.dol.gov/ebsa or call their toll-free number at 1-866-444-3272.

This notice is a summary of your COBRA rights. For answers to specific questions, please contact HR at human.resources@cityofsanrafael.org or (415) 485-3063.

Sincerely,

Human Resources