

Health Insurance After Retirement

If you receive a monthly retirement allowance, you and your dependents are eligible to participate in the retired teachers' group medical insurance plans. Coverage may be obtained on the date of retirement unless your district provides coverage to the anniversary date of its plan. Coverage may also be obtained annually through open enrollment in November and May for changes effective January 1st and July 1st. Health insurance coverage for dependents ceases at your death, UNLESS you elect one of six survivorship options. If you do not elect a survivorship option, your dependents are eligible for COBRA to continue the insurance for three years.

If you had ten or more years of service on June 30, 2010, the Retirement System pays a flat amount toward your monthly premium and the balance is withheld from your check.

To qualify for a spousal health insurance subsidy you must meet the following service credit thresholds:

- those with more than 30 years of service on June 30, 2010 will have to work another 5 years;
- those with between 25 and 29.99 years of service on June 30, 2010 will have to work a total of 35 years;
- those with between 15 and 24.99 years of service on June 30, 2010 will have to work 10 more years;
- those with between 10 and 14.99 years of service on June 30, 2010 will be eligible upon 25 years.

If you need medical coverage immediately, there will be a double deduction for the medical premium from your first pension check, as our office needs to set the payment up in advance of the month during which the coverage occurs.

When you reach age 65 or become eligible for Medicare, the plans share the liability for your medical coverage. It is important that you enroll in both Part A and Part B of Medicare as soon as you become eligible. You must enroll in Medicare parts A and B in order to qualify for enrollment in one of the Medicare supplement plans available through VSTRS.