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 did not have ten or more years of service on June 30, 2010, the Retirement System will pay the percentages below toward your monthly premium, based on your service credit at the time of retirement.

- members retiring with less than 15 years of service will have no subsidized coverage;
- members retiring with between 15 and 19.99 years of service will have 60% of their health care premium paid after retirement;
- members retiring with between 20 and 24.99 years of service will have 70% of their health care premium paid after retirement;
- members retiring with 25 or more years of service at retirement will have 80% of both their health care premium and their spouses' health premium paid after retirement

The balance of the premium is withheld from your check. **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.