



# Office of Labor Relations

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM

22 Cortlandt Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10007  
nyc.gov/olr

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*Director, Financial Management Unit*

Dear Retiree:

We are proud to announce that starting in January 1, 2022, the City of New York and the Municipal Labor Committee have agreed to implement a Medicare Advantage program for all City retirees and their eligible dependents age 65 and over. The new program will be called the **NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan** and be provided by an Alliance between Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield and EmblemHealth. The NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan will provide comprehensive **premium-free** health coverage to retirees.

A Medicare Advantage program replaces both traditional Medicare and a Medicare supplement plan with a single integrated program administered by an insurer approved by Medicare. The Plan must follow Medicare rules and provide all benefits provided by Medicare. The NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan is rated four stars by Medicare for its excellent quality. All retirees will still be eligible for the Medicare Part B premium reimbursement by the City.

The NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan will allow retirees and their eligible dependents to keep their current doctors and hospitals. The vast majority of Senior Care providers are within the Alliance network. The Alliance has committed to working with those providers currently out-of-network so that they will understand that they will receive the same payment currently received by in-network providers to assure their acceptance. The Plan is a national program so it covers retirees and their eligible dependents in any State or US territory in which they work or reside and when they travel.

All retirees and their eligible dependents will automatically be enrolled in the NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan. Retirees who do not wish to be enrolled in the new Plan, effective January 1, 2022, will have the ability to opt-out and remain in their current retiree health plan. To remain in their current health plan, retirees will have to pay an additional plan premium, the specifics for which will be determined in August, and available on the Health Benefits Program website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/summaryofplans/health-ratechart.page>.

Retirees will receive an enrollment guide containing information on the NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan, along with an FAQ and a plan comparison chart. The enrollment guide will provide a detailed benefits summary of the new Plan, along with the Medicare Part D prescription drug rider. The enrollment guide will also include an opt-out form for those retirees that do not wish to be enrolled in the new Plan.

**For further information, please contact the NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan dedicated telephone number at 1-833-325-1190, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

We know that the change may seem daunting but we will endeavor to make the transition as easy as possible. In conjunction with the Alliance, we plan to have an extensive education program in the summer and early fall that will include virtual and in-person meetings, mailings and outreach calls to every one of our approximately 250,000 retirees.

Thank you for your service to the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Renee Champion  
Commissioner