



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Small Businesses Could Play Key Role in Getting New Mexicans Insured During COVID-19
Options are Available Through beWellnm

Albuquerque, NM – Group health insurance options available to small businesses through beWellnm, the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, could play a key role in getting more New Mexicans insured during this time of uncertainty. Thanks to recently-adopted rule changes approved by the beWellnm Board of Directors, it is now easier than ever for small businesses to offer group health plans for their employees.

According to Maureen Manring, beWellnm’s director of outreach and communication, business owners can provide the structure for their employees to enroll if they so choose, and they can do it without any out-of-pocket expense to themselves or the business.

“These are difficult times for New Mexico small businesses, but they have an incredible opportunity right now to make sure that their employees have coverage, and it doesn’t have to cost them anything,” she said.

In order to purchase a 2020 plan on the individual marketplace, New Mexicans would have had to enroll last December, or qualify for a special enrollment period. However, businesses are not limited to purchasing during an open enrollment period, allowing them to provide insurance options to their employees almost immediately.

“There is no minimum requirement for participants, and there is no minimum requirement for employer contribution,” said Manring. “We are asking small business owners around the state to consider making plans available to their employees if they don’t currently offer coverage already. Owners can play a critically important role in keeping their employees healthy and preventing catastrophic medical costs to them if they become sick, need hospitalization, and don’t have coverage,” said Manring.

“This is a time where we do need to work together to tackle the uninsured problem in New Mexico,” she said.

Small business owners can call 1-833-862-3935 to find out about options.

If small businesses are able to contribute to their employees’ premium, they could qualify for a tax credit.

If businesses decide to not offer coverage at this time, they can encourage uninsured employees to find out if they qualify for special circumstance enrollment through beWellnm or if they may qualify for

Medicaid by visiting <https://bewellnm.com/qualify-for-coverage>. New Mexicans who don't qualify for special circumstance enrollment through beWellnm or for Medicaid, can get coverage through the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool.

Every New Mexican can get health coverage.

About beWellnm, The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange

BeWellnm was created to help individuals and small businesses get access to affordable health insurance plans. BeWellnm helps consumers compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. BeWellnm also helps individuals determine whether they are eligible for premium assistance and if so, at what level. Through beWellnm for Small Business, small businesses are able to purchase competitively priced health insurance plans and offer their employees the ability to choose from an array of plans. Enrollment counselors and insurance agents are available throughout the state to help with signing up for health insurance.

To find more information on beWellnm, New Mexico's Health Insurance Exchange, visit www.beWellnm.com or call us at 1-833-ToBeWell.

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