

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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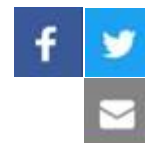
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Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

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Health Insurance Rates for 2019 Now Available to the Public
Slight increase for individual plans much lower than in recent years

BOISE, ID – Final 2019 premium rates for individual and small group health insurance plans have been released by the Idaho Department of Insurance. In the individual market, plans will increase by an average of 5 percent, a significant reversal in the double-digit rate increases Idahoans have faced the past three years, and a figure slightly lower than the 8 percent increase proposed by health carriers this past spring.

From 2016 to 2018, Idaho has averaged a 24-percent yearly increase for individual plans, including last year’s spike of 27 percent. The final 2019 rate adjustments and justifications for each carrier are published and can be viewed on the Department website at: <https://doi.idaho.gov/consumer/RateReview/>. Increases for bronze and silver plans remain the lowest, while rates for catastrophic plans will be the highest.

“Although I wish I could report no increase, I am thankful that the Department was able to work with the carriers in reducing the proposed increase,” said Director Dean Cameron. “I and the Department are continuing our efforts to offer more affordable health insurance products.”

Open enrollment for 2019 begins November 1, and those seeking coverage can visit the state’s insurance exchange, Your Health Idaho, at: <https://www.yourhealthidaho.org/>. Four carriers are offering a total of 293 plans, including three carriers providing coverage statewide. Some consumers utilizing Your Health Idaho may be eligible for assistance covering premiums, out-of-pocket costs and deductibles.

Health insurance companies submit their proposed rate increases in the spring, and the Department works with carriers to evaluate these proposals. The Department’s only authority is to deem a proposed rate increase as “unreasonable” and cannot simply disapprove rates. Rate increase proposals are based on claims experience, premiums, network provider agreements and other costs. The Department recommends consumers work with a licensed agent to help evaluate the various plan options.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit doi.idaho.gov.

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