



pennsylvania
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2021

Wolf Administration and Pennie Leadership Visit YMCA Health Equity Tour to Provide Affordable Health Coverage Resources, Health Services, and COVID-19 Vaccines to Pennsylvanians

York, PA – The Wolf Administration and Pennie leadership today provided information on health resources and affordable health coverage, as well as COVID-19 vaccinations to visitors during a [YMCA Health Equality Tour](#) at the York City Branch of the YMCA.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified health inequities across the commonwealth,” Pennsylvania Department of Health Acting Secretary Alison Beam said. “We are here in York at a stop on the YMCA and Pennie Health Equity Tour to discuss a variety of educational health services and to encourage Pennsylvanians to register and receive a free COVID-19 vaccine today. We want to make sure all underserved communities are vaccinated and have an opportunity to enroll in affordable health coverage.”

Pennie, Pennsylvania’s health insurance marketplace, has partnered with the Harrisburg Area YMCA to host free, in-person events across all corners of the Keystone State, where local community members can come to learn about free health-related programs and services provided by the YMCA as well as how to enroll in affordable health coverage through Pennie.

“We are proud to hold these in-person events throughout all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Our hope is that this tour will help us reduce health inequities by providing individual health education to combat risk behaviors, reduce barriers to health care and to enroll in coverage through Pennie,” said Amy Jacobs, Director of Community Integrated Health from the Harrisburg Area YMCA. “Most of these tour stops also offer the COVID-19 vaccine to those that pre-register.”

Pennie has delivered new financial savings to hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians due to the implementation of the new American Rescue Plan benefits. The American Rescue Plan allows for an increase in the amount of premium tax credits through Pennie for eligible Pennsylvanians at most income levels during the 2021 and 2022 plan years.

“On April 16, Pennie updated its shopping and plan comparison platform to allow those browsing their health coverage options to compare plans based on their eligibility with the new savings available. The average net premium customers are paying after financial assistance is almost half what it was prior to the American Rescue Plan, down

to \$85 a month from \$168 a month,” noted Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman.

“We are pleased to be able to provide this never-before-seen level of financial assistance to our customers and to help those across the commonwealth access affordable coverage. Currently, 90 percent of Pennie customers are receiving financial assistance, and the amount of financial assistance available has increased by \$49 million a month. The sooner the uninsured take advantage of this opportunity, the sooner they can start saving while protecting their health,” noted Pennie Executive Director Zachary W. Sherman.

As of June 21, approximately 15 percent of customers are receiving the Unemployment Insurance benefit, making them eligible to receive the maximum amount of financial assistance available through Pennie. On average, these customers are saving around \$604 per month. Click [here](#) for more information on the impact of the American Rescue Plan.

To get covered, all one needs to do is apply for coverage and enroll in the current “COVID-19 Enrollment Period” that is open to all Pennsylvanians and runs until August 15. Pennie encourages anyone who is uninsured and is seeking coverage to visit pennie.com for more information.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Mark O’Neill, Health, ra-dhpressoffice@pa.gov,

Thaisa Jones, Insurance, thajones@pa.gov,

Kelsey Cameron, Pennie, kecameron@pa.gov

#