



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

December 2, 2014

Dear Colleague,

This may well be my last message to you as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The last four years have been a time of incredible change, and in many ways, incredible progress for Maryland's health care system. Words cannot fully express my appreciation for the dedication and effectiveness of so many health professionals providing essential care and treatment to so many in need across our state.

I am writing today to let you know that MarylandHealthConnection.gov -- the website for enrolling uninsured Marylanders in quality and affordable coverage -- is fixed. Thousands of our friends and neighbors are now using this site to browse through plans, determine their eligibility for financial assistance, and enroll in coverage. The response to this totally rebuilt website has been overwhelmingly positive.

Please recommend MarylandHealthConnection.gov and the accompanying call center number -- 1-855-642-8572 -- to all of your patients, friends, and neighbors in need of health coverage.

Marylanders can apply from home or find many ways to get in-person assistance in applying from navigators, brokers and others. Information on these options for in-person assistance are available both on the website and through the call center.

Here are the key dates:

- Apply by December 18 for coverage starting January 1.
- Apply by January 15 for coverage starting February 1.
- Apply by February 15 -- which is the last day of this year's open enrollment period! -- for coverage starting March 1.

It's best to apply well before the deadline! Also, Medicaid enrollment is year round.

Individuals who had private health plan coverage through the Maryland Health Connection in 2014 should all re-enroll again now on the new website. This allows them to re-qualify for financial assistance and assures the best opportunity to pick a plan that meets their needs.

Thank you so much for spreading the word to your patients, neighbors, and friends. Information for download and printing is available at <http://marylandhbe.com/outreach/>

I recently thanked Governor O'Malley for the honor and privilege of serving the people of Maryland over the last four years. I thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of health and health care in Maryland. I look forward to our paths crossing in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh M. Sharfstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary