



BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



October 2017

Dear Employer,

Soon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont will send a letter to many of our VEHI subscribers asking them to give BCBSVT their social security number per a requirement of the federal Affordable Care Act. Some of the employees in your Supervisory Unions / School Districts will receive this letter.

The Affordable Care Act requires individuals to maintain a minimum level of health coverage or face tax penalties. In order to determine which people will have to pay tax penalties, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 6055, will require health plans to report a "Form 1095-B" for members who have coverage. The IRS further mandates that documented attempts to collect missing or incomplete social security numbers for all members will be made over the next several years. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont is handling this for VEHI employer members.

When one of your employees receives a letter from us asking for social security numbers for one or more people in their household, we ask that they supply the missing information by logging into the Member Resource Center at www.bcbsvt.com/member. From the member resource center, your employees can send our enrollment services team a secure email with social security numbers for all members in their household. This is the most secure way to send us the information.

We understand that your employees might be sensitive to providing us this confidential information. Please let them know that this information will be the best way to avoid tax penalties by ensuring the IRS can identify that your employees and their families have minimum essential coverage.

If your employees have any questions, please have them call our customer service department at (800) 247-2583. If you have questions, please contact your BCBSVT Account Manager, Allison Plante (802) 371-3664; plantea@bcbsvt.com or VEHI/VSBIT Program Assistant, Angela Tremblay (802) 223-5040; angela@vsbit.org.

Thank you for choosing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont and Vermont Education Health Initiative.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Horan
Director of Client Solutions, BCBSVT

Laura Soares
President VSBIT/VEHI