

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COVID-19 UPDATE #7:
Information for Individuals and Group Customers Experiencing Economic
Hardship due to COVID-19 Outbreak**

(Newark, NJ, March 31, 2020) – Consistent with guidance from the Department of Banking and Insurance (Bulletin 20-04), Horizon Blue Cross Blue of New Jersey (Horizon BCBSNJ) is prepared to extend flexibility for our members and group customers that are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Group customers whose economic hardship may require more time to satisfy premium obligations should contact their broker or Horizon BCBSNJ account manager to discuss payment flexibility options.

Groups that do not have a broker or account manager and members who purchased individual plans either directly or through the exchange and who need to discuss premium flexibility options should call 888-489-4741.

Assistance is also available for members transitioning from employer-sponsored plans who need to secure coverage. Representatives are available at 800-224-1234 to help members review their plan options and conduct a preliminary income assessment to determine eligibility for advanced premium tax credits or no-cost policies from Medicaid. The majority of individuals covered through the individual market receive advance premium tax credits that lower or eliminate entirely premium payments.

About Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, the state's oldest and largest health insurer is a tax-paying, not-for-profit health service corporation, providing a wide array of medical, dental, vision and prescription insurance products and services. Horizon BCBSNJ is leading the transformation of health care in New Jersey by working with doctors and hospitals to deliver innovative, patient-centered programs that reward the quality, not quantity, of care patients receive. Learn more at www.HorizonBlue.com. Horizon BCBSNJ is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association serving approximately 3.4 million members.

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