



February 2019

Dear San Joaquin County Retiree:

**\*\*\*CHANGES TO\*\*\*  
Retiree Open Enrollment Period  
and  
Plan Year Effective Date**

We are contacting you early this year, as there are some major changes occurring and we want you to be able to plan accordingly. Please note the following:

**Open Enrollment Period and Plan Year Effective Date Change:**

Historically, the retiree open enrollment period has been separate and earlier than the active San Joaquin employees' open enrollment. This has caused issues with the health providers supplying timely rates, plus actuarial issues due to blending rates with the active population. It has also caused time management concerns for County staff in Benefits and SJCERA, since this is also the time of year for budget preparation.

Due to these administrative issues, we are moving to one comprehensive open enrollment period and plan effective date for retiree and active plan enrollees.

**New Open Enrollment Period: May 1 - 31, 2019**

**New Effective Date of Changes: July 1, 2019**

All retiree health vendors agreed to a 14-month plan year (May 2018 – June 2019) to accommodate this change. What this means to you is that your current premiums will not change for an additional two months (until July 2019).

**Comprehensive Retiree Open Enrollment Packets Will Not be Mailed:**

For many years, active County employees have not received a comprehensive open enrollment packet through the mail. This is a very large expense and a majority of enrollees maintain the same benefits each year. Last year's mailing to retirees cost over \$10,000, due to the size of the packet. With this in mind, we will no longer mail comprehensive open enrollment packets to retirees.

After April 24, 2019, you will be able to access detailed plan benefit options and rates in three different ways:

- 1) Going to the County’s Website:  
<https://www.sjgov.org/departments/hr/employee/retirement>
- 2) Attending a Retiree Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2019
- 3) Visiting San Joaquin County’s Human Resources Department at:  
44 North San Joaquin Street, Suite 330 Stockton, CA 95202

The dates for the upcoming Open Enrollment Events are noted below:

**CALENDAR OF ANTICIPATED RETIREE OPEN ENROLLMENT EVENTS  
FOR 2019-2020 PLAN YEAR**

EVENT	DATE
Informational Letter Mailed to Retirees	February 2019
Health Rates Presented to Board of Supervisors	April 23, 2019
Open Enrollment Rates / Required Notices Mailed	April 24, 2019
Retiree Open Enrollment Meetings	April 30, 2019
Open Enrollment Period	May 1 – 31, 2019
Open Enrollment Paperwork Due	May 31, 2019
Effective Date of Plans/Rates	July 1, 2019

As stated above, an additional mailing will be sent closer to open enrollment with premium costs and required mailings, but not a comprehensive package. Thank you for your understanding with these changes.