Health Winter 2025 Winter 2025



Health and Wellness or Prevention Information

Winter Health & Safety Checklist

Winter is a fun time to play in the snow or stay cozy indoors. It is also important to stay safe and healthy when the weather gets cold. Use this checklist to get ready for cold weather:

- Wear Warm Clothes Put on layers, a hat, gloves, and boots to stay warm and dry.
- Be Careful on Ice Ice can be slippery. Use salt or sand on sidewalks and walk slowly.
- Check Your Furnace Make sure your home stays warm. Have your furnace checked and change the filter.
- Check Your Space Heater Make sure it is working safely. Keep it away from things that can catch fire and never leave it on when you're not in the room.
- Get Winter Supplies Have a shovel, blankets, flashlights, and extra batteries ready in case of snow or power outages.
- Get Your Flu Vaccine These help protect you and others from getting sick. Visit vaccines.gov or call 1.877.903.7504 for help.
- Check Your Car Make sure the tires, battery and wipers work well. Keep a blanket and flashlight in the car just in case.
- Take Care of Your Feelings Cold weather and short days can make you feel sad. Talk to someone, get outside when you can, and spend time

Be Careful Shoveling Snow – Shoveling can be hard on your body, especially in cold weather. It can raise your blood pressure and strain your heart. Take breaks, drink water, and stop if you feel dizzy, short of breath, or very tired. If you feel chest pain

with friends and family.

or discomfort, you should stop

and call 911

immediately.





Community Events

Mobile Pantries

Mobile Pantries bring free food to your neighborhood. You can get fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, and baked goods.

You do not need to sign up or fill out any forms. If you need help with food, you can come.

Click the link below to learn more. You can also enter your zip code to find out when the Mobile Pantry will be in your area:

feedingamerica.org/ our-work/hunger-reliefprograms/mobile-foodpantry-program

A Guide to Goal Setting track and see the big picture. S.M.A.R.T. Here is what **SMART** means: Specific What exactly do I want to do? Measurable Achievable Relevant Is this goal important to me? Timebound When do I want to finish? Notice of

As the New Year gets closer, it is a good time to think about the past year. What goals did you reach? What did not go as planned? What do you want to do better next year?

Many people want to make changes like:

Getting healthier
 Losing weight
 Quitting smoking
 Going back to school
 Finding a new job

Change can be hard, but setting goals can help make it easier. One great way to set goals is by using the **SMART** method. It helps you stay on

How will I know I am making progress?

Can I do this on my own or with help?

For example, maybe you want to focus on saving money in 2026. See the below example of how this can be done using the **SMART** method.

Objective: Save \$2,000 by December 31, 2026, by setting aside \$40 each week into a separate savings account, tracking progress monthly, and adjusting spending habits to reduce unnecessary purchase.

- **Specific** Save \$2,000.
- Measurable Keep track of weekly and monthly savinas.
- Achievable \$2,000 is realistic based on weekly amount.
- Relevant Focused on financial goals.
- Timebound Complete by the end of 2026.

Break big goals into small steps. Make a plan and check it often. It is okay to change your plan if you need to. It is better to change your plan than to give up on your goals!

Need help with your SMART goals? Call a THP Life Coach at 1.877.236.2293 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on weekdays. We are here to help or connect you with someone who can. The Health Plan has a comprehensive team of social workers, pharmacists, clinical support and tobacco cessation staff.

Privacy Practices

The privacy and security of your health information is very important to The Health Plan. The Health Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices explains how we use and disclose your protected health information and your rights under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The notice is available on our website. You may also contact us at 1.800.624.6961 if you wish to obtain a written copy.

Word to Know: Referral

A **referral** is an order from your provider, often your primary care provider (PCP), for you to see a specialist or get certain medical services. One example of medical services that may require a referral is physical therapy.

You may need a referral for your services to be covered, but having a referral does not guarantee coverage. To find out if a service is covered, call Customer Service at 1.888.847.7902. **•**



Talk to a Nurse:

The nurse information line provides members with access to a THP nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The nurse information line is available to help support access to urgent and emergent care after hours.

> Contact the nurse information line by calling 1.866.NURSEHP (1.866.687.7347). Or fill out the online form healthplan.org/for-you-and-family/get-care/talk-nurse.

Eye Health: Why You Should Schedule Your Dilated Eye Exam

Get Your Eye Exam Sooner, Not Later

If you have diabetes, it is important to get a yearly eye exam. This exam checks for problems caused by diabetes and helps you know how healthy your eyes are. Even if your vision seems fine, you could still have eye disease. Finding problems early can help stop or slow down vision loss.

Types of Diabetes-Related Eye Problems:

- Retinopathy Damage to the small blood vessels in the back of the eye that can cause blurry vision.
- Macular edema Swelling in the center of the retina that makes it hard to see clearly.
- Cataracts A cloudy lens in the eye that makes things look blurry or dim.
- Glaucoma A disease that increases pressure in the eye and can lead to vision loss.
- Dry eye When your eyes don't make enough tears or the tears don't work well, causing discomfort.

What Happens During a Dilated Eye Exam?

The eye exam has four parts. These tests are quick and do not hurt.

- Seeing how well you can read (visual acuity).
- Checking pressure in your eyes (tonometry).
- Taking pictures of your retina.
- Medicated eye drops are used to make it easier to see the inside of your eye more closely.
- Looking at your retina with special drops (dilated test).

After your dilated eye exam, your vision may be blurry and your eyes may be sensitive to light for a few hours. You may need to wear sunglasses and avoid bright lights until your eyes feel normal again. It's best not to drive right after the exam. Plan to have someone drive you to your exam, or to wait to drive until the medicated eye drops wear off.

Call Your Eye Doctor if You Notice:

- Trouble reading or focusing
- Blurry or double vision
- Eye pain or pressure
- Flashing lights, dark spots, or missing parts in your vision
- New floaters (moving spots or lines)

I Have Diabetes - When Should I Get a Dilated Eye Exam?

If you have diabetes, you should get a dilated eye exam every 1-2 years, even if your vision seems fine. This exam helps the eye doctor check for problems that can happen from diabetes. These problems often don't cause symptoms at first, so regular exams are important to catch them early. Your doctor may tell you to come more often if they find changes in your eyes.

Take Action Today

Call your eye doctor today to schedule your dilated and comprehensive eye exam.

For more information about eye health and diabetes visit The Health Plan's Health Library at

healthplan.org/library/articles/abh1895.
You can also visit the American

Diabetes Association at diabetes.org/eyehealth.



Pardon Our Progress

The Health Plan is upgrading our systems to better serve you.

During this process, you may notice your coverage shows as terminated. If you believe you are still active, please contact The Health Plan at 1.800.624.6961. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve your experience.

Did You Know You May Fill a 90-Day Supply of Your Daily Medication?

Going to the pharmacy every month can be time-consuming. That is why The Health Plan lets you get a 90-day supply of your daily medicine.

Talk to your doctor to see if this is a good choice for you. You can get 90-day refills at your local pharmacy or have them sent to your home through Express Scripts.

Getting a 90-day supply can help you stay healthy and save time and money!

Visit healthplan.org/for-you-and-family/pharmacy/home-delivery-prescription-reimbursements to learn more about 90-day refills and home delivery with Express Scripts.

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Healthy Eating

What is healthy eating?

Healthy eating means having balance, variety, and not too much of anything. Eating different kinds of foods gives your body the nutrients it needs to stay strong. Most foods can be part of a healthy diet if you do not eat too much of them.

Why pay attention to what you eat?

Eating healthy helps your body get the right vitamins and minerals. These help your heart beat, your brain think, and your muscles move.

Healthy eating also helps you feel good and gives you energy. It can help prevent problems like:

- Heart disease
- High blood pressure
- Type 2 diabetes
- Some types of cancer

How do you make healthy eating a habit?

A habit is something that you do as part of your daily routine. Healthy eating can become a habit by making small changes that you can commit to. It takes 3 to 4 weeks of doing something for it to start feeling like a habit. Making one small change at a time can help you achieve your healthy eating goals.

For example, you may want to eat more fruits and vegetables.

You can start by having some fruit for breakfast each day. Bananas,

oranges, or apples can be great on-the-go fruits for morning commutes. After 3 to 4 weeks, this should start to feel like your routine. Then you can make another small change like adding a salad to one meal a day. This process can continue until you have met your healthy eating goal.



Customer Service Reps

When you call The Health Plan, expect to speak with a real, local person. If you have questions or need assistance, call customer service at 1.888.847.7902 now!

How to Meal Plan and Prep When You're Busy

Meal planning doesn't have to take a lot of time. Start by picking one day each week to plan your meals — many families choose Sunday. Write down what you'll eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and make a grocery list based on those meals. Choose simple recipes with ingredients you already have or that can be used in more than one meal. Planning ahead helps you avoid last-minute decisions and makes it easier to cook at home, even on busy nights.

> Meal prep means planning and making your meals ahead of time, like cooking food for the week on Sunday. If you don't like to reheat food, you can focus on chopping the vegetables you need or measuring ingredients. This can help you eat healthier because you already have good food ready to go. When you keep doing meal prep each week, it gets easier and becomes a habit that helps you feel better and stay on track.

Tips to Reduce Food Costs

Planning your meals can also help you save money. When you shop with a list, you're less likely to buy things you don't need. Try buying store brands, using coupons, and looking for sales on items you use often. Cooking at home costs less than eating out, and leftovers can be packed for lunch the next day. You can also save by buying in bulk and freezing extra portions for later. Small changes like these can make a big difference in your grocery budget.

Where can you get support?

Your family and friends can support you. You might also find help from neighbors or coworkers. You could join a class or group that talks about healthy eating.



Member Rights and Responsibilities

To view your member rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at healthplan.org/legal/member-rights-and-responsibilities. For a printed copy, please call 1.888.847.7902.



Unstuffed Cabbage Roll

Nutrition:

Servings: 6. Calories Per Serving: 67. Protein: 5g. Carbs: 3g. Fat: 4g



Inaredients:

- 2 pounds of ground beef
- 1 large onion (chopped)
- 1 small head cabbage (chopped)
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- 1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 gloves garlic (minced)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions:

- 1. Gather all ingredients.
- 2. Heat a Dutch oven or large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir beef and onion in the hot Dutch oven until browned and crumbly, 5 to 7 minutes; drain and discard grease.
- 3. Add cabbage, tomatoes, tomato sauce, water, garlic, salt, and pepper and bring to a boil. Cover Dutch oven, reduce heat, and simmer until cabbage is tender, about 30 minutes.
- 4. Serve hot and enjoy!

Source: allrecipes.com/recipe/235997/unstuffed-cabbage-roll/



Each year, The Health Plan (THP) sends surveys to learn how you feel about your providers and your health plan.

We work with a trusted company called Press Ganey. They keep your answers private.

If you get a survey in the mail or by email, we would love for you to fill it out. Answering any of the surveys will not change your benefits. Your answers help us learn how to make your experience better with us and with your healthcare provider.



1110 Main Street Wheeling, WV 26003-2704





Join Other Members from The Health Plan on a **Commercial Member Advisory Committee**

MEETINGS ARE HELD QUARTERLY AND ALL YOU NEED IS A PHONE TO PARTICIPATE



Why Participate?

Because your opinions about how THP offers benefits and services to you matter to us.

Together you can help us help you by:

- Identifying opportunities for improvement
- Understanding members barriers to care
- Increasing your health literacy
- Opportunity to interact with other THP members
- And much more!



Let us know today if you are interested or call **1.888.847.7902** (TTY:711) for more information.





Are you on MyPlan?

Setting up multi-factor authentication, also called MFA, will make it harder for someone else to gain access to your account without your permission.

What is MFA?

MFA is a login process that requires users to verify their identity through a second step, such as by entering a code that is sent to their email. MFA is sometimes called two-factor authentication.

Why should I sign up for MFA?

MFA helps protect your personal information from would-be hackers.

MFA is a strong security measure that can prevent your account from being hacked or compromised because it adds an extra layer of security. You should use MFA on all accounts that contain private or sensitive information.

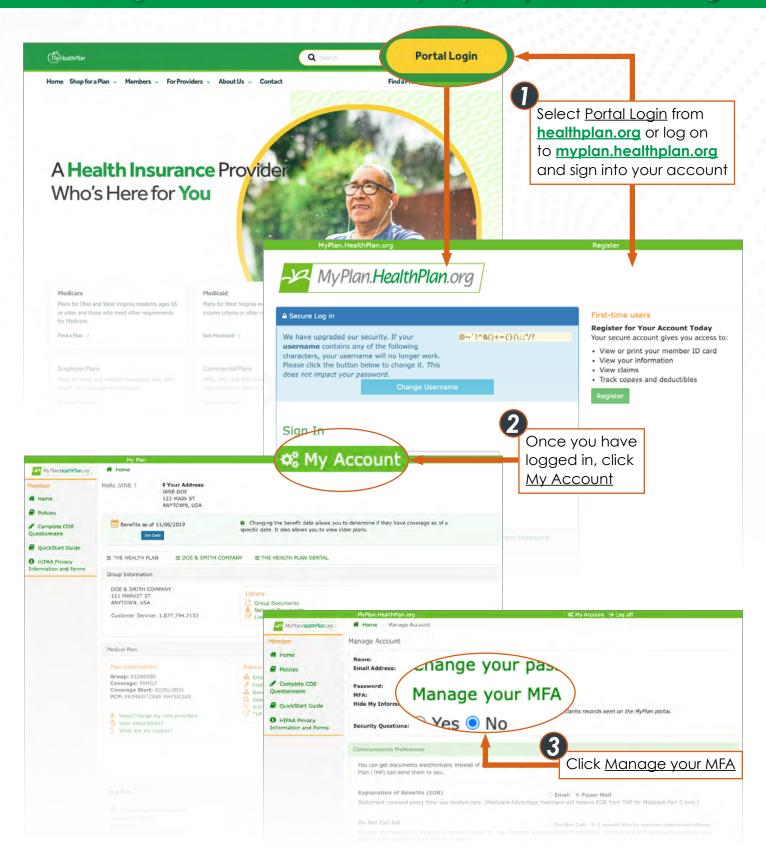
How do I sign up for MFA?

It's easy! Just login to your MyPlan account and follow the steps below. A few minutes setting up MFA now may help to protect you from identity theft.





Activating Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on MyPlan.HealthPlan.org

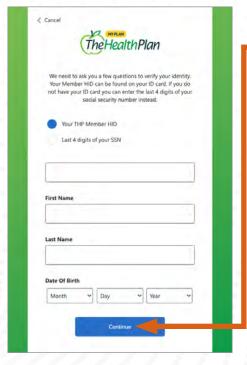






Activating Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on MyPlan.HealthPlan.org





You will be prompted for additional information Complete the questions and click Continue

Cancel

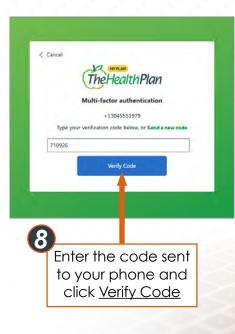
Cancel

Please choose your login security preference.

Protect my login via SMS or Phone Call

Do not add additional login security





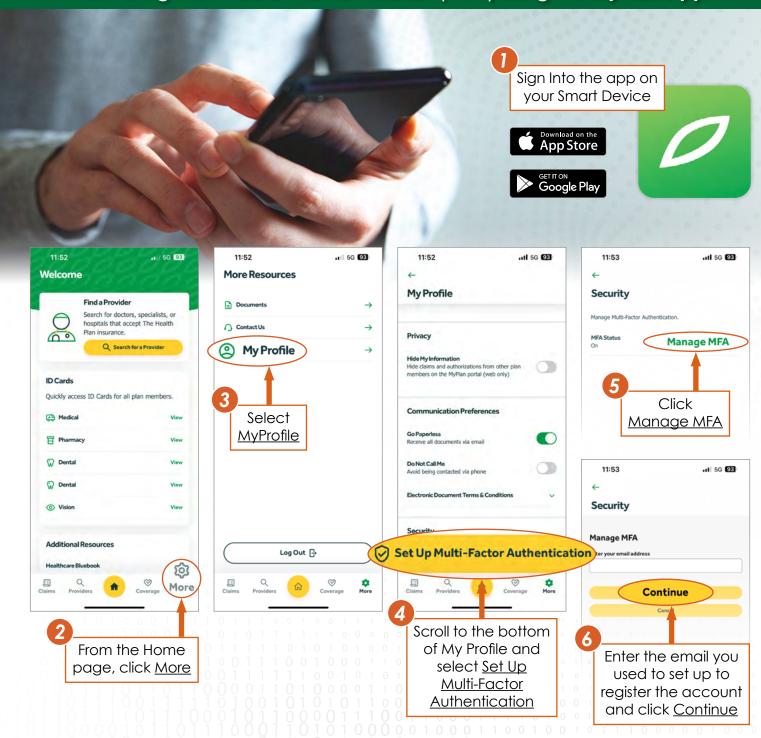


Choose Protect my login via SMS or Phone Call and click Continue





Activating Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Using the MyPlan App







Activating Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Using the MyPlan App



