



Insurance Department

106 East 6th Avenue ♦ Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

August 28, 2019

Dear Black Jewel Employees:

It is the understanding of the Wyoming Department of Insurance that you were notified by a letter dated August 24, 2019 that your health insurance with Black Jewel/Revelation has been terminated, effective August 31, 2019. The exact date of your “termination of benefits” is critically important, as that date is the trigger date for your eligibility for other health insurance options. **If you lose group health coverage under a group health plan (job-based coverage), you should consider all health coverage options you may have before you make a decision.**

Health Insurance Options

If you have recently lost your job-based health insurance, there are several options available to consider. However, because your health insurance plan is being terminated, COBRA benefits are likely not going to be available to the Black Jewel employees. The status of the company in the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings remains uncertain. At this time, the matter of health insurance and COBRA benefits is pending a ruling by the federal bankruptcy judge.

Traditionally, a COBRA election period is triggered upon the last day of coverage under your current employer sponsored health plan. This election period allows an individual to purchase COBRA continuation coverage by paying the full monthly premium and a small administrative fee. COBRA coverage allows a worker to continue coverage under the employer sponsored health plan. **A worker may elect COBRA within sixty days of the last day of coverage of the employer sponsored health plan.** While this election can be made at any time during the sixty day election period, the coverage under COBRA is retroactive to the last date of coverage under the employer sponsored health plan. In this situation, that would be August 31, 2019.

Because of the uncertainty of your COBRA benefits, we write this letter to advise you of other options. You will have a sixty (60) day Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for a Marketplace plan that **starts from the last day of your employer coverage (August 31, 2019).** A Special Enrollment Period allows you to select health insurance through the Healthcare Marketplace at: www.healthcare.gov outside of the traditional Open Enrollment period. The effective date of your Marketplace coverage depends on when the plan is purchased and is not effective retroactively to the last day of your employment. Please note that Marketplace plans are priced by the issuer, depending on the level of coverage you select. We encourage you to secure insurance coverage as soon as possible and to avoid a period of non-coverage and risk of being without health insurance.

You will need to carefully consider your options for health coverage for you and your family. **Depending on your income, you may qualify for a subsidy to help with the cost of premiums, and other cost savings reductions, which may make coverage through the Marketplace more affordable than COBRA, if it is available.** There may be more affordable or more generous coverage options for you and your family through: other group health plans (such as a spouse's plan), Medicare, Medicaid, or KidCare CHIP. *Note: If you decide to obtain coverage through a spouse's employer based health insurance, typically you must enroll within 30 days of your last day of coverage.* We encourage you to look at the options available on the Health Marketplace (www.healthcare.gov).

If you receive COBRA and decide to terminate your COBRA coverage early, you generally will not be able to get a Marketplace plan outside of the open enrollment period. You also don't qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if you or your family member loses coverage because you don't pay your COBRA premium. (Open Enrollment starts November 1 for coverage effective January 1)

We understand this is a difficult time for you and your family. If you have additional insurance questions, please contact the Wyoming Department of Insurance at 307-777-7401 or toll free at 1-800-438-5768, or online at <http://doi.wyo.gov>.