



# Illinois Department of Insurance

---

**BRUCE RAUNER**  
Governor

**JENNIFER HAMMER**  
Director

Media Advisory  
Contact: Whitney Barnes  
[Whitney.Barnes@illinois.gov](mailto:Whitney.Barnes@illinois.gov)  
217.685.5171

For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2017

## **Open Enrollment Ends Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

*DOI encourages Illinois consumers to shop now before it is too late*

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Insurance (DOI) is reminding consumers that the 2018 Open Enrollment Period ends Friday, December 15, 2017. All Illinoisans needing health insurance coverage for 2018 must enroll by 11pm on Friday, December 15, 2017.

In past years, consumers had time to change plans in January after receiving their first premium bill. With a shortened Enrollment Period ending December 15<sup>th</sup>, this is no longer an option, making it important to select the right plan the first time.

“We do not recommend passively re-enrolling because prices and plans change every year. Cost should not be the only factor in choosing a plan. For example, consumers should be sure to look at a plan’s provider network and coverage,” Hammer said.

This year, DOI partnered with GoHealth to improve the shopping experience for Illinoisans looking to purchase a 2018 health insurance coverage. Consumers who visit [GetCovered.Illinois.Gov](http://GetCovered.Illinois.Gov) are now able to view individual plans offered both on and off the Exchange. Using the Connector tool on the website, consumers can arrange appointments with navigators and certified application counselors.

Consumers who have questions, or who are looking to sign up for a plan over the phone, may request to speak to a licensed insurance agent by calling 866-311-1119 Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Director Hammer implemented a statewide consumer outreach initiative, with at least one event in each of Illinois’ 102 counties, where consumers can meet one-on-one with a member of the Get Covered staff to ask questions and receive assistance.

“Illinois is a large state and our goal was to reach all parts of it. We wanted to sit down with people face-to-face in a place that is convenient for them,” Director Hammer said.

DOI has also been promoting the importance of the shortened Enrollment Period through social media, radio, and a campaign on Chicago’s transit system.

“It is our job at the Department of Insurance to protect consumers. Accidents and illnesses can happen at any time, and we are helping consumers protect themselves with health insurance before it’s too late,” said Director Hammer.

###