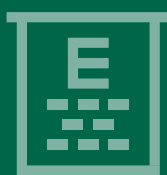


Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund



**2025 BENEFIT PLAN
INFORMATION BOOKLET**

**BOSTON TEACHERS UNION
HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND**

180 Mount Vernon Street
Boston, MA 02125-3198
(617) 288-0500
www.btuhwf.org

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Eye Care Benefit
Funeral Expense Benefit
Hospitalization Income Supplement Benefit
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Medic-Alert Benefit
Recreational Benefit
Prepaid Legal Services Benefit

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ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

All Covered Teachers and their Eligible Dependents are eligible for the benefits described in this booklet (except that Eligible Dependents do not qualify for the Hospitalization Income Supplement, the Funeral Expense Benefit or the Recreational Benefit¹) when they satisfy the following provisions:

1. Covered Teachers include all persons employed or compensated as members of a bargaining unit represented by the Boston Teachers Union and for whom, in the then current fiscal year (September 1 to August 31) of the Fund, a contribution is required to be made to the Fund. Any bargaining unit member for whom a contribution is made in any school year shall remain covered by the Fund for the duration of that school year so long as he/she remains in the employ of the Boston School Committee in the bargaining unit or in an acting position, and the School Department will not claim a contribution refund for the remainder of the school year for that person.

The term Covered Teacher shall also include an elected official or full- time employee of the Union or an employee of the Fund on behalf of whom contributions shall be made to the Fund.

2. Eligible Dependents of a Covered Teacher include the Covered Teacher's:
 - a. Lawful spouse; and
 - b. A Child as defined below

To qualify for dependent coverage under the Fund, a child must: (1) meet the definition of "Child" below; and (2) be under age 26. Under these new rules, the child can be married and with the exception of grandchildren, does not have to be financially dependent on the member for support to qualify for Plan coverage. However, coverage will not be provided to the dependent's spouse.

"Child" Defined: The Covered Teacher's natural or adopted child (including a child placed for adoption), stepchild (the Covered Teacher's spouse's natural or adopted child, or a child placed for adoption), or foster child. In addition, the unmarried descendent of any of the above ("grandchildren") under age 26 will be eligible for coverage provided the descendent has the same principal place of abode as the Covered Teacher for over half of the year and is dependent on the Covered Teacher for over half of his/her support (i.e., the child does not provide over one-half of his/her own financial support). Documentation of the Covered

¹ Dependents are eligible to participate in the Fun Run but are not eligible for any other recreational benefits.

Teacher's relationship with the Child is required at enrollment.

If your unmarried dependent Child age 26 or older is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a physical or mental handicap, coverage will be continued, provided the incapacity commenced prior to the Child's attaining age 26. You must submit proof to the Fund Office of your dependent Child's incapacity before the later of 31 days after the date the Child attains age 26 or 31 days after you become eligible as a Covered Teacher. Proof of the continued existence of such incapacity shall be periodically required to maintain coverage eligibility and shall be furnished to the Fund Office upon request.

PLEASE NOTE: Dependents of a Covered Teachers are eligible for Dental, Eye Care, Medic-Alert Benefits, Hearing Aid Benefits and Prepaid Legal Services Benefits.

Termination of Eligibility

When does an Employee's Eligibility for Benefits Terminate?²

Eligibility for benefits terminates for the employee when the employee is no longer employed as described under "Who is Eligible," Item 1, page 1."

When does a Dependent's Eligibility for Benefits Terminate?

Eligibility for benefits terminates for a dependent on the earlier of:

1. The date the employee's eligibility for benefits terminates; or
2. The date the dependent no longer meets the definition of an eligible dependent (see 2a and 2b under "Who Is Eligible").

However, if termination of the employee's coverage is due to death, the Eligible Dependents will remain covered until the end of the then current fiscal year of the Fund. At the end of the fiscal year the Eligible Dependents will be eligible to continue coverage on a self-pay basis under federal legislation known as the 1986 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

² Termination of benefits is subject to continuation rights under COBRA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Online Account Registration

Benefit eligible individuals should establish an online account by visiting www.btuhowf.org. The secure account will allow you to transmit personal information to the Fund Office, upload documents, make enrollment changes, and communicate efficiently online.

During the initial set up, you will be prompted to enter a valid email address as your username and create a confidential password. Initial access is activated by entering a code sent to you via email.

Documentation and Enrollment

To register for dental and vision benefits, Covered Teachers can also fill out and submit a benefits enrollment card at the Fund Office. Based on information received from the City of Boston, the Fund Office will verify eligibility and process enrollment for dental and vision benefits within a few business days.

To register for dependent coverage, you will be required to furnish copies of the following additional documentation:

1. Marriage certificate;
2. Birth certificate document showing both parents' names and date of birth of each child;
3. Divorce decree if applicable;
4. For "grandchildren" under age 26, specifically the unmarried descendent of the Covered Teacher's natural or adopted child (including a child placed for adoption), stepchild (the Covered Teacher's spouse's natural or adopted child, or a child placed for adoption), or a foster child who satisfies the definition of Eligible Dependent, copies (PDF or scan) of the following:
 - a. The Covered Teacher's statement attesting to: the relationship of the child and the Covered Teacher ("grandchild"), and that the "grandchild" has the same principal abode as the Covered Teacher for over half of the year and is dependent on the Covered Teacher for over half of his/her support (i.e., the child does not provide over one- half of his/her financial support).
 - b. If applicable, the original court document, or written statement on letterhead of authorized placement agency, establishing a guardianship, adopted child or foster child status for the child claimed as a dependent; and
5. Appropriate tax returns.

It is necessary also to notify the Fund Office in a timely manner of any change in your contact information or family status by reason of marriage, birth of a child, death, divorce or legal separation after the date you become a Covered Teacher. Failure to file the required information may affect eligibility for and delay payment of benefits to you and/or your dependents.

This Plan complies with the federal law regarding Special Enrollment by virtue of the fact that all eligible Covered Teachers and their Eligible Dependents can enroll in Plan benefits if the eligibility requirements of the Plan are met. There is no option to decline coverage.

PLEASE NOTE: Dependents of a Covered Teacher are eligible for dental benefits, eye care benefits, hearing aid benefits, Medic-Alert benefits and prepaid personal legal services benefits.

Special Items of Note

Benefits will be provided only for charges incurred or services rendered on a date a Covered Teacher or dependent is eligible under the Plan.

All claims must be submitted within one year from the date of service.

If you submit a “bad check” to the Fund to cover any expense, any bank charge for depositing the “bad check” will be charged to you.

HEALTH PLAN BENEFITS CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

Introduction

This section of the Information Booklet contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage may become available to you and other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage.

The Fund Administrator is Eugene M. McGlynn, Sr., 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198, telephone: (617) 288-0500. The Fund Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage.

COBRA Continuation Coverage

COBRA continuation coverage continues Plan coverage for certain benefits when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a “qualifying event.” Specific qualifying events are listed later in this section. COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a “qualified beneficiary.” A qualified beneficiary is someone who will lose coverage under the Plan because of a qualifying event. Depending on the type of qualifying event, employees, spouse of employees and dependent children of employees may be qualified beneficiaries. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you are a covered employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

1. Your hours of employment are reduced, or
2. Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of a covered employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

1. Your spouse dies;
2. Your spouse’s hours of employment are reduced;

3. Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. Your spouse becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B or both);
5. You become divorced from your spouse.³

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

1. The covered parent-employee dies;
2. The covered parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
3. The covered parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. The covered parent-employee becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B or both);
5. The covered parent-employee becomes divorced; or
6. The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B or both), the employee's divorce or a dependent child losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 36 months.

If a qualifying event that is a termination of employment or reduction in hours occurs less than 18 months after the date you become entitled to Medicare (Part A, Part B or both), the period of coverage for your dependents who are qualified beneficiaries will last until 36 months after the date of the Medicare entitlement.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 18 months. There are three ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation can be extended.

Disability Extension of 18-Month Period of Continuation Coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled at any time during the first 60

³ A divorced spouse may be eligible under applicable state law for continuation of certain health plan coverages for divorced spouses.

days of COBRA Continuation Coverage and you notify the Fund Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family can receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months.

Second Qualifying Event Extension of 18-Month Period of Continuation Coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get additional months of COBRA continuation, up to a maximum of 36 months from the date of the original qualifying event. This extension is available to the spouse and dependent children if the former covered employee dies, enrolls in Medicare (Part A, Part B or both) or gets divorced. The extension is also available to a dependent child when that child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child.

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Fund Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event which results in a loss of coverage has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, or enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B or both), the employer must notify the Fund Administrator of the qualifying event within 30 days following these events.

Acquiring a New Dependent(s) while Covered by COBRA

If you acquire a new Dependent through marriage, birth, or placement for adoption while you are enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage, you may add that Dependent to your coverage for the balance of the COBRA continuation coverage period. To enroll your new Dependent for COBRA coverage, you must notify the Fund Administrator within 30 days of acquiring the new Dependent. There may be a change in your COBRA premium amount to cover the new Dependent.

If a Dependent of an active Employee with COBRA continuation coverage, was eligible for but did not elect COBRA continuation coverage at the time of the Employee's qualifying event because the Dependent had other group health coverage at that time, and the Dependent loses the other coverage due to exhaustion of COBRA or, for non-COBRA coverage, due to loss of eligibility or termination of employer contributions, the Employee may add the Dependent to his COBRA continuation coverage for the remainder of the COBRA period provided he does so within 30 days after the Dependent's loss of the other coverage.

Retirement Extension of 18-Month Period of Continuation Coverage

If you retire as a Covered Teacher and elect COBRA continuation coverage in a timely fashion, you and your entire family can receive up to an additional 6 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 24 months.

How Does the COBRA Election Take Place?

Step 1: Notification

As a covered employee or other qualified beneficiary, you are responsible for providing the Fund Administrator with timely notice, and documentation (if requested), of certain qualifying events. You must provide the Fund Administrator notice of the following qualifying events:

1. The divorce of a covered employee from his or her spouse.
2. A beneficiary ceasing to be covered under the plan as a dependent child of a covered employee.
3. The occurrence of a second qualifying event after a qualified beneficiary has become entitled to COBRA with a maximum of 18 (or 29) months. This second qualifying event could include an employee's death, entitlement to Medicare, divorce or child losing dependent status.

In addition to these qualifying events, there are two other situations where a covered Teacher or other qualified beneficiary is responsible for providing the Fund Administrator with notice within the timeframe noted in this section:

1. When a qualified beneficiary entitled to receive COBRA coverage with a maximum of 18 months has been determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled. If the Social Security Administration determines that the disability occurred prior to the COBRA qualifying event or within the first 60 days of the COBRA continuation period, the qualified beneficiary may be eligible for an 11-month extension of the 18 months maximum coverage period, for a total of 29 months of COBRA coverage.
2. When the Social Security Administration determines that a qualified beneficiary is no longer disabled.

You must make sure that the Fund Administrator is notified of any of the five occurrences listed above. Failure to provide this notice within the form and timeframes described below may prevent you and/or your dependents from obtaining or extending COBRA coverage.

Your employer is required to notify the Fund within 30 days of the occurrence of the following qualifying events:

1. A reduction in hours affecting your eligibility to continue in employment as a member of a BTU-represented bargaining unit;
2. The termination of your employment for any reason other than gross misconduct on your part.

Your employer's late notification to the Fund of the occurrence of these qualifying events will not affect your right to elect coverage, but late notice will not extend the period of continuation coverage or create coverage where it would not otherwise exist.

How Should A Notice Be Provided?

Notice of any of the five situations listed above must be provided in writing. You may use the Fund's "COBRA Notice Form for Covered Employees and Other Qualified Beneficiaries" to provide notice to the Fund. You may obtain a copy of this form by contacting the Fund Administrator at (617) 288-0500. Alternatively, you may fax, email, or mail a letter to the Fund containing the following information: your name, which of the five events listed above you are providing notice of and the date of the event.

To Whom Should the Notice Be Sent?

Notice should be mailed via USPS First Class mail to the attention of the Fund Administrator, Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund, 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198.

When Should the Notice Be Sent?

If you are providing notice due to a divorce, a dependent losing eligibility for coverage or a second qualifying event, you must send the Notice no later than **60 days after the later of**: (1) the date of that qualifying event ; or (2) the date upon which coverage would be lost under the Plan as a result of the qualifying event. In the event of divorce, you must provide a copy of the divorce decree or proof of the legal separation.

If you are providing notice of a Social Security Administration determination of disability, notice must be sent no later than **60 days after the latest of**:

1. the date of the disability determination by the Social Security Administration;
2. the date of the qualifying event; or
3. the date on which the qualified beneficiary would lose coverage under the Plan due to the qualifying event, and before the end of the first 18 months of coverage.

In the event of disability, you must provide a copy of the Social Security Administration determination of disability.

If you are providing notice of a Social Security Administration determination that you are no longer disabled, notice must be sent no later than **30 days after** the date of the determination by the Social Security Administration that you are no longer disabled.

These time periods to provide these notices will not begin until you have been informed of the responsibility to provide these notices and these notice procedures through the furnishing of a Benefit Plan Information Booklet or a general (initial) notice by the Plan.

Who Can Provide a Notice?

Notice may be provided by the covered employee or other qualified beneficiary with respect to the qualifying event, or any representative acting on behalf of the covered employee or other qualified beneficiary. Notice from one individual will satisfy the notice requirement for all related qualified beneficiaries affected by the same qualifying event. For example, if an employee, spouse and child are all covered by the plan, and the child ceases to be a dependent under the plan, a single notice submitted by the spouse would satisfy this requirement.

If you or your dependents have provided notice to the Fund Administrator of a divorce, a beneficiary ceasing to be covered under the Plan as a dependent or a second qualifying event, but are not entitled to COBRA, the Fund Administrator will send you a written notice stating the reason why you are not eligible for COBRA. This will be provided within 14 days of receiving your notice.

Once the Fund Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. For each qualified beneficiary who timely elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date of the qualifying event, or if later, the date coverage is lost due to the qualifying event.

IMPORTANT: If you don't notify the Fund Office of a qualifying event as described above, you will lose your right to elect COBRA coverage entirely, as described above.

If you and/or your Eligible Dependents become eligible to self-purchase COBRA coverage due to any of the following three qualifying events: covered employee's termination of employment; reduction in hours of employment resulting in a loss of coverage; or death, the Fund Office will notify you and will send the election form and information. You must then return the election form within 60 days of the loss of coverage or the date you receive the notice, whichever is later.

If you choose COBRA coverage, no evidence of insurability is required. If you do not choose continuation coverage, your coverage of benefits provided by this Fund will end.

Step 2: Election of Coverage

Once the Fund Office sends you your COBRA election materials, you have **60 days** to make an election.

Step 3: Payment

Once the Fund Office receives your election material, they will notify you of the amount of premium you owe. You will have 45 days from the date you made your COBRA election to make payment for all premiums owed for the period. If payment is not received, COBRA coverage will be cancelled retroactively to the date your coverage under the Plan terminated.

Your monthly payments are due on the 1st day of each month. You will have a 30-day grace period in which to pay. Payments can be made in person at the Fund Office, mailed to the Fund Office or, made through the online portal once a registered account has been activated. Note that some restrictions apply for online payments made through the portal. If your payment is not received by the end of the grace period, your coverage will be cancelled retroactively to the last day of the previous month, and you will lose all rights to continuation coverage under the Plan.

Why Continue Coverage?

In considering whether to elect continuation coverage, you should take into account that a failure to continue your group health coverage will affect your future rights under federal law. First, you can lose the right to avoid having pre-existing condition exclusions applied to you by other group health plans if you have more than a 63-day gap in health coverage, and election of continuation coverage may help you to not have such a gap. Second, you will lose the guaranteed right to purchase individual health insurance policies that do not impose such pre-existing condition exclusions if you do not get continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you. Finally, you should take into account that you have special enrollment rights under federal law. You have the right to request special enrollment in another group health plan for which you are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your spouse's employer) within 30 days after your group health coverage ends because of the qualifying events listed above. You will also have the same special enrollment right at the end of continuation coverage if you get continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.

Confirmation of Coverage Before Election or Payment of COBRA Premiums

If a health care provider requests confirmation of coverage and:

1. you, your spouse or dependent children have elected COBRA but have not yet paid the premium (and the grace period is still in effect); or
2. you, your spouse or dependent children are within the COBRA election period but have not yet elected COBRA;

COBRA coverage will be confirmed to your health care provider but with notice that the premium has not been paid and that no claims will be paid until the amount due has been received by the Fund. Additionally, your provider will be informed that if the amount due is not received by the end of the grace period, your coverage will terminate retroactively.

What Coverage is Available if I Elect COBRA?

Covered Teachers, their spouses and their dependent children may continue dental, eye care, hearing aid and Medic-Aid benefits when coverage would otherwise end because of a qualifying event. Only Covered Teachers may continue hospitalization income supplement benefits under COBRA. Prepaid Legal Services and funeral benefits are not available for continuation of coverage. More specific information will be provided to you when you become eligible for continuation coverage.

If, during the period of COBRA Continuation Coverage, you marry, have a newborn child or have a child placed with you for adoption, that spouse or dependent child may be enrolled for coverage for the balance of the period of COBRA Continuation Coverage on the same terms available to active employees. Enrollment must occur no later than 30 days after the marriage, birth or placement for adoption. Adding a spouse or dependent child may cause an increase in the amount you must pay for COBRA Continuation Coverage.

The Cost

Employees and/or their Eligible Dependents may be required to pay the entire cost of continued group coverage at group rates. In general, the cost will not exceed 102% of the cost of these benefits to the Fund. The cost of the

11-month extension of coverage in the case of a Social Security disability determination will be that set forth in federal legislation, and may be up to 150% of the applicable cost.

Specific cost information will be given to you when you become eligible for this type of continuation coverage.

When Continuation Coverage May Be Cut Short

The law also provides that COBRA Continuation Coverage may be cut short for any of the following reasons:

1. The Fund no longer provides group health coverage to any of its similarly situated Covered Teachers;
2. You do not pay the applicable premium for your COBRA Continuation Coverage on time;
3. The covered person becomes entitled to Medicare; or
4. The covered person becomes covered under another group health plan that does not contain an exclusion or limitation that applies to any pre- existing condition of that covered person, or by law, may no longer apply its preexisting condition limitation or exclusion to that covered person.

If continuation coverage is terminated before the end of the maximum coverage period, the Fund Administrator will send you a written notice as soon as practicable following the Fund Administrator's determination that continuation coverage will terminate. The Notice will set out why continuation coverage will be terminated early, the date of termination, and your rights, if any, to alternative individual or group coverage.

If You Have Questions

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Fund Administrator (contact information is on page 38 of this Information Booklet). You may also contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). The phone number for the Boston Regional EBSA Office is (617) 565-9600. The address for the Boston Regional Office is available through EBSA's website at www.dol.gov/ebsa.

Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Fund Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Fund Administrator.

BENEFITS FOR COVERED TEACHERS AND THEIR ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS

Dental Benefits

ALL covered diagnostic and preventive services (including periodic dental exams and cleanings) will be covered at 100% when you receive care from a Delta Dental PPO or Delta Dental Premier dentist. Examples of other such services are x-rays, fluoride and sealants. Dental exams and cleanings will continue to be covered twice per calendar year.

In addition, urgent dental problems occurring after business hours, on holidays and weekends, or when a regular dentist is unavailable can be addressed using a smartphone, tablet or computer and registering at www.TeleDentistry.com/ddma. A virtual visit can be scheduled after completing a brief health questionnaire. Following the virtual examination, the TeleDentistry.com dentist will email consultation notes to and direct follow-up care with a Delta Dental provider. The service is charged as a problem-focused exam.

For all non-urgent dental services, please go to www.btuhwf.org to view the Fund's new dental payment schedule, which shows that all diagnostic and preventive services are covered at 100%.

Delta Dental PPO *Plus Premier*

When you need dental services, you will be able to select a dentist from either the Delta Dental Premier or the Delta Dental PPO network of dentists.

Over 91% of Massachusetts' dentists participate in DeltaPremier. Fewer dentists (about 20% of Massachusetts' dentists) participate in the Delta Dental PPO network, but, for patients, the out-of-pocket payment is lower because those dentists reduce their normal fees by 20% – 30% for Delta Dental PPO patients.

The Fund payment is the same for each network, but the dentist's charges are different.

To find out if your dentist is part of the Delta Dental PPO *Plus Premier* networks or if you have questions about the procedures covered under Delta Dental PPO *Plus Premier* you can: (1) call your dentist and ask, (2) call Delta Dental's Customer Service Department at (800) 872-0500 or (3) visit Delta's website at www.deltadentalma.com/members.

General Information

Delta Dental PPO *Plus Premier* provides dental benefits through payment for dental services specified in the Schedule of Covered Dental Procedures up to the amounts shown if you or an Eligible Dependent receive such services from a participating dentist. Dental services are also covered when they are rendered by a non-participating dentist but at a different reimbursement rate. See “How to Obtain Dental Benefits.”

Dental benefits under Delta Dental PPO *Plus Premier* are subject to a maximum payment for each covered individual in a calendar year. You are, of course, responsible for any difference between the dental allowance payable by the Plan and the dentist’s fee.

For covered implant procedures, there is a separate maximum payment for each covered individual in a calendar year. To your benefit, implant-related procedures (abutments and crowns) will be applied to the calendar year maximum payment for each covered individual.

Orthodontic benefits are subject to a lifetime maximum for each covered individual. You will be responsible for all charges in excess of the lifetime maximum. Payment for orthodontic benefits is not included in the calculation of the calendar year maximum payment.

Coordination of Benefits

When dental benefits would be payable under more than one group plan, benefits payable under those plans will be coordinated to the extent that the total benefits under all group plans will not exceed 100% of any necessary, reasonable, and customary expense which is covered in whole or in part under at least one of those group plans.

How Your Coverage Begins

Covered Teachers enroll themselves and their Eligible Dependents in the dental benefits program by completing an enrollment card supplied by the Fund Office. You’ll receive two identical Delta Dental identification (ID) cards that list important information, such as their customer service phone number, your individual subscriber number and your group number. Both cards are issued in the subscriber’s name, but can be used by everyone covered under your plan. It’s important that you bring your Delta Dental ID card, which indicates eligibility and the extent of your coverage, with you whenever you visit a dentist. This will initiate the claims process and ensure your access to available benefits.

How to Obtain Dental Benefits and Provider Options

Delta Dental of Massachusetts Network Provider Reminder

To help you minimize out-of-pocket costs for services, you can determine whether your dental provider participates in one of the Delta Dental of Massachusetts preferred provider networks: PPO or Premier. While both networks of participating dentists agree to adhere to Delta Dental processing and billing policies, the total cost of services is discounted at a Premier provider and potentially even more so (based on the service and location) at a PPO provider. You can locate a network provider and determine their network participation by visiting www.deltadentalma.com/members.

- **Participating Dentist:** Ask if your dentist is a participating dentist in the Delta Dental Premier or PPO network. Again, a PPO provider may be more cost-competitive based on the service and location. If “yes,” state that you are a Covered Teacher or dependent and supply your Dental Plan group number and your identification number, which identifies you as a Covered Teacher or Eligible Dependent. Your group number, even if you are the dependent, is 6318, and your identification number, even if you are the dependent, is the Covered Paraprofessional’s Social Security number. Payment for dental services rendered in accordance with Delta Dental PPO Plus Premier up to the maximum shown in the Schedule of Covered Dental Procedures will be made directly to the participating dentist by Delta Dental of Massachusetts.
- **Non-Participating Dentist:** Even if your dentist does not have an agreement with Delta Dental (a non-participating dentist) ask the dentist to file a claim with Delta Dental. If you prefer to file the claim, you must submit a completed claim form along with the original itemized bill to: Delta Dental of Massachusetts, PO Box 2907, Milwaukee, WI 53201- 2907.

Claim forms are available on the Delta Dental website at www.deltadentalma.com, or by calling the appropriate number: Delta Dental Customer Service Department: (617) 886-1234 or (toll free) (800) 872-0500 and at the Fund Office (617) 288-0500.

Benefit reimbursement for services of a non-participating Massachusetts dentist will likely be less than the amount which would have been paid had services been rendered by a participating dentist. The level of reimbursement (payment) for out-of-network charges is determined based on whether the dentist is located in Massachusetts or outside of Massachusetts.

- **Massachusetts:** services are reimbursed up to the Delta Dental Premier regional fee schedule.
- **Outside of Massachusetts:** services are reimbursed at the 90th percentile of the prevailing fees in the specific geographic region.

Outside Massachusetts

When you receive covered services from a non-participating dentist who practices and treats you outside of Massachusetts, either you or the dentist may submit an Attending Dentist's Statement to Delta Dental Plan. If you send Delta Dental a written request and your dentist agrees, Delta Dental Plan will make any benefit payments to your dentist instead of to you. Otherwise, in the absence of such a request, Delta Dental will send you the benefit payments if any are due.

Predetermination of Benefits

If your dentist expects that treatment costs will exceed the amount indicated in the schedule, he or she should submit a treatment plan to Delta Dental before services are rendered. A treatment plan is a detailed description of the procedures that the dentist plans to perform and includes an estimate of the charges for each service. After reviewing the treatment plan, Delta Dental will notify the dentist about the extent of the benefits available for the services reported.

Time Limit for Filing Claims

All claims for services by both participating and non-participating dentists must be submitted to Delta Dental within one year of the date of service.

Coverage for Urgent Dental Problems

Please refer to page 14 for details.

Limitations

No payment shall be made except as outlined in your Delta Dental PPO *Plus* Premier Schedule of Covered Dental Procedures. As some examples, no payment shall be made:

1. for any professional fees whatsoever other than the fees of the dentist performing the treatment,
2. for dental fees incurred for any treatment,
 - a. due to sickness resulting from occupational disease (for the purpose of the policy, the term "occupational disease" shall mean a disease for which the member, for whom a claim is submitted, is entitled to benefits under the applicable Worker's Compensation Law, Occupational Disease Law or similar legislation), or
 - b. due to accidental bodily injuries resulting out of and in the course of an individual's employment for which the person is entitled to benefits under the applicable Worker's Compensation Law,
 - c. Occupational Disease Law or similar legislation, or

- d. performed in a hospital owned or operated by the United States Government or by a dentist employed by the Federal Government (except to the extent required by law) or elsewhere at Federal Government expense, or
 - e. for which the patient is not required to pay, or
 - f. not listed on the Schedule of Covered Dental Procedures.
- 3. for expenses incurred due to inappropriate dental treatment,
 - 4. for dental expenses incurred after termination of a member's or dependent's insurance,
 - 5. for charges which are not necessary or are not recommended and approved by the attending physician or dentist or charges which are unreasonable, or
 - 6. for a gingivectomy, impacted teeth, fractured jaws or biopsies when these procedures are performed in a hospital or surgical day care center and covered by the City of Boston Employees Health Benefit Plans.

Schedule of Covered Dental Procedures for the Dental Plan

Dental benefits are subject to a maximum payment in a calendar year for dental services rendered while a person is eligible.

The current Schedule of Covered Dental Procedures for the Dental Plan is available at www.btuhwf.org. The Schedule is also available at the Fund Office, which is located at 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198; the phone number is (617) 288-0500.

Orthodontic Benefit for the Dental Plan

The orthodontic benefit is limited to a lifetime maximum per person under Delta Dental PPO *Plus Premier*

Orthodontic services and supplies are those necessary and appropriate to prevent and correct misalignment of the teeth. The misalignment must be severe enough to significantly interfere with the function of the teeth.

The reimbursement for orthodontia benefits will be based on 24 months of active treatment and the dentist's total submitted case fee, which will be divided by 12 months to determine the monthly payment amount. The amount will be paid over a 12-month period until the lifetime maximum has been reached.

The first payment is based on the date of banding (the date that braces are placed), and additional monthly payments will be issued automatically assuming the member or covered dependent is still eligible for orthodontia benefits.

Benefits for services of non-participating Delta Dental dentists are limited to charges up to 80% of the amount specified. You pay charges in excess of that payment and the lifetime maximum.

NOTE: Your dentist should file a “treatment plan” with Delta for a Predetermination of Benefits.

Orthodontic Exclusions:

1. Surgical services; including orthognathic surgery.
2. Lost or stolen devices.
3. Muscle exercises to prevent or correct misalignment of the teeth (called Myofunctional Therapy).
4. Artificial devices to increase the height of teeth. This includes crowns and onlays.

Eye Care Benefits for Covered Teachers and their Eligible Dependents

The Eye Care benefit is provided only through the Boston Teachers’ Eye Care Center, which is located at 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston (Dorchester), MA 02125-3198. The telephone number at the Boston Teachers’ Eye Care Center is (617) 288-5540.

The Eye Care Center is staffed by qualified optometrists, opticians and optometric technicians. At the Center, you will be given a comprehensive eye examination for any visual or pathologic problems. If the examination indicates that eyeglasses are required, the Eye Care Center will supply the eyeglasses with your choice of any frame displayed at the Eye Care Center. Lenses and certain frames provided by the Eye Care Center are supplied at no charge to you. Other frames and lens options are available at the Eye Care Center at a cost to you.

Information is available at the Eye Care Center so that you will be aware of “no charge” and “extra cost” items when you order your eyeglasses.

If a staff optometrist finds evidence of pathology, the optometrist will recommend you see an eye physician for further examination. If it is then determined that medical, surgical or orthoptic treatment or referral for other care outside the Eye Care Center is needed, you will be so advised. All eye care available at the Eye Care Center is provided at no cost to you. Any eye care, including referral, that is provided outside the Eye Care Center is not part of this benefit, but may be covered under the provisions of your own medical insurance plan.

1. **Examinations:** All Covered Teachers and their Eligible Dependents are entitled to an eye examination and one pair of prescription eyeglasses (or contact lenses, for Teachers or Spouses) once a year. Eye care examinations for any eye care problems are also covered.
2. **Polycarbonate (Impact Resistant) lenses** are available to all Covered Teachers and Eligible Dependents at no additional cost.
3. **Branded Designer Label frames** are available at no additional cost. Co-payments for the following lens options or lens treatments may apply, contact the Eye Care Center for these payment amounts:
 - a. Transition or Polarized lenses
 - b. Vantage (Polarized & Transition)
 - c. Anti-reflection coating
 - d. High index lenses
 - e. Photogray extra
 - f. U-V coating
 - g. Scratch coating
4. **Repair of Eyeglasses:** In the event the most recent eyewear provided through the Eye Care Center is broken or damaged, it may be returned to the Center for adjustment, repair or replacement, at the staff's discretion, at no charge to you. Repairs or adjustments to any other eyewear may not be done at the Eye Care Center.
5. **Replacement of Eyeglasses (Covered Teacher Only):** If a Covered Teacher's most recent prescription eyeglasses, which have been provided through the Eye Care Center, are lost or stolen while the Covered Teacher is on school premises or performing a school-related function, these eyeglasses can be replaced at the Eye Care Center. This replacement benefit is available once only (lifetime) for any Covered Teacher. In order to utilize this replacement benefit, the Covered Teacher must furnish to the Eye Care Center a letter on school letterhead from a school headmaster or supervisor describing the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the eyeglasses. With the exception of this one-time-only replacement, lost or stolen eyeglasses will not be replaced by the Eye Care Center. Any individual who is within one month of being eligible for re-examination may be required to return for re-examination and new eyeglasses rather than replacement or repair of lost, stolen or damaged eyewear.
6. **Sunglasses:** A Covered Teacher or Eligible Dependent who does not require a prescription change since his previously authorized examination may elect to have prescription sunglasses instead of regular glasses. Covered Teachers only who are found not to need prescription eyeglasses may receive one pair of non-prescription sunglasses from the selection available at the Eye Care Center. This pair of non-prescription sunglasses will be the complete eyeglass benefit for the entire one-year eligibility cycle.

Contact Lens Services for Teachers

The following contact lens services are available at the Eye Care Center. The contact lens benefits are for Covered Teachers and Spouses only, with the benefit not being transferrable to an Eligible Dependent.

1. One pair of contact lenses in lieu of eyewear up to a maximum allowance of \$160 annually (this amount may be indexed periodically – check with the Eye Care Center).
2. Routine eye examination, per the covered Fund benefit.
3. Routine eye examination and evaluation of currently worn soft contact lenses, and determination of a prescription for new soft contact lenses.
4. Routine eye examination and initial fitting of soft contact lenses.
5. Instruction on the proper wearing, handling, cleaning and care of new soft contact lenses.
6. Progress check on vision and ocular health status of a patient currently wearing soft contact lenses prescribed at the Eye Care Center.

There are some contact lens categories and individual eye conditions that are not covered by the contact lens program. If any of those limitations apply to your individual situation, they will be discussed by the doctors during your examination.

If you want to receive any of the contact lens services described above, please telephone the Eye Care Center at (617) 288-5540 so your eligibility can be determined. After your eligibility is confirmed, contact lens services will be scheduled on an as needed basis as determined by the doctors at the Eye Care Center.

The Eye Care Center will provide additional information on options for the purchase of contact lenses.

Allowance for Medically Necessary Contact Lenses

In addition to the Eye Care Benefit described above, there is an allowance for contact lenses in lieu of eyewear and under certain circumstances.

If you or an Eligible Dependent require contact lenses for the correction of a medical eye problem as prescribed by your doctor, you will be allowed an amount up to \$100 for the purchase and fitting of contact lenses by a private doctor of your choice.

In order to be entitled to this allowance, you must obtain a verification of the therapeutic necessity for contact lenses from the Boston Teachers' Eye Care Center. To do this, you must make an appointment for the verification at the Eye Care Center. After verification is made, you should then submit for reimbursement a copy of your bill together with a completed Contact Lens Claim form, which you can obtain from the Eye Care Center, to the Eye Care

Center Director, who will forward them to the Fund Office for payment.

This allowance is renewable every two years for adults and yearly for children only if a further expense for contact lenses has been authorized and incurred.

No Duplication of Benefits

There is no duplication of eye care benefits under this Plan and the eye care plan of the Boston Teachers Union Paraprofessional Health and Welfare Fund.

How to Obtain an Examination

Telephone the Eye Care Center at (617) 288-5540 so that your eligibility and that of your dependents who want an examination at the Center can be determined. After eligibility is confirmed, appointments can be made for each member of your family who has been authorized to receive an examination. An examination takes approximately 30 minutes.

If eyeglasses are required, the frames can be selected and ordered at the time of your examination. When the eyeglasses are received at the Eye Care Center, the prescription will be verified, and you will be notified so that an appointment can be made for the pick-up and fitting of the eyeglasses.

You must be prompt for your appointment because the appointment will be held for only 10 minutes past the scheduled time and then cancelled. A longer delay would make it impossible for the staff to render proper care. If your appointment is cancelled, you should arrange to have it rescheduled, subject to the following surcharge.

A surcharge of \$20 will be assessed for an individual's failure to keep an appointment, and a surcharge of \$10 will be assessed if the individual cancels an eye care appointment less than 24 hours in advance. The individual will be denied a further appointment until such time as the surcharge is paid.

The surcharge may be appealed to the Trustees when there is a legitimate reason for canceling or failing to keep an appointment.

On days when the Boston schools are cancelled due to severe weather, the Eye Care Center will be closed.

NOTE: Total concentration is required on the part of both patient and doctor during an eye examination. Therefore, unless the children have appointments for examination, we ask that the adult not bring children to the Eye Care Center. If this is not possible, we request that you make arrangements for their care during your examination.

Purchase of Additional Eyeglasses

Covered Teachers, and their Eligible Dependents are able to purchase additional pairs of eyeglasses at the Eye Care Center. This additional benefit will encompass all of the lens and frame options displayed at the time of the order. A one-year

warranty will be provided for all purchased eyewear.

All purchased eyewear and options must be paid in full before the order can be placed. No refunds are available for any purchases, for any reason.

Eye Care Center Prescription Service

The prescription service may be utilized by the filling of a current prescription for eyeglasses from an outside doctor. The opticians and staff at the Eye Care Center will order from our contract laboratory the prescription you supply. No changes can be made to this eyewear once the order has been placed, and any changes requested, and all associated costs, will be the patient's responsibility. This service satisfies the eye care benefit to the same extent as if the eye examination and a resulting prescription were done at the Eye Care Center.

In order to utilize this service, you must call the Eye Care Center to confirm your eligibility, and schedule an appointment with one of the opticians or technicians to order the eyeglasses for you.

Medic-Alert® Benefits⁴

The Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund offers Covered Teachers and Eligible Dependents enrollment in Medic-Alert.

Eligible persons with special medical conditions that cannot be easily seen and which should be known immediately in an emergency may need Medic-Alert. Diabetes, epilepsy, severe allergies and hypertension are just a few examples of such conditions.

Your medical ID provides for a quick recognition of your medical conditions, allergies, medications, or treatment wishes; this leads to faster and more effective medical treatment. Medical ID bracelets reduce treatment errors which may result from not having a patient's health record during an emergency situation or upon hospital admission. A medical ID speaks for you in the event of an emergency if you become unresponsive. First responders and medical personnel are trained to first look for medical identification jewelry in an emergency. Medical IDs will immediately alert emergency medical professionals to your critical health and personal information.

The Medic-Alert emblem, worn as a bracelet or necklace, has the wearer's medical condition engraved on the back. Also engraved on the emblem is a 24-hour toll-free emergency number which offers instant access to a person's medical history. In addition to the emblem, members carry a wallet identification card that provides personal and medical information.

If you have a medical condition which needs to be identified in an emergency

⁴ There is no duplication of the Medic-Alert Benefit under this Plan and the Medic-Alert Benefit of the Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund.

situation, complete the Medic-Alert Enrollment Form which you can find on the Fund's website, www.btuhwf.org, or is available from the Fund Office and mail it to the Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund, 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198 for processing. **DO NOT SEND THE COMPLETED APPLICATION TO MEDIC-ALERT.**

NOTE: The Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund assumes the responsibility of paying for your enrollment in the Medic-Alert Foundation International and will forward your enrollment form to Medic-Alert. The Fund does not assume any other responsibility; for example, and not by way of limitation, the accuracy or completeness of the information supplied to the Medic-Alert Foundation or compliance with the conditions and instructions on the enrollment form and the service provided by the Foundation are not responsibilities of the Fund.

Hearing Aid Benefits

Hearing Aid Benefit for Covered Teacher and their Eligible Dependents

If a Covered Teacher or eligible dependent requires a hearing aid, they should contact TruHearing. TruHearing will make an appointment for you at a TruHearing Hearing Aid Network Provider. The Fund will pay the full cost of up to two hearing aids (one per ear) purchased through a TruHearing Hearing Aid Network provider every 3 years.

NOTE: A TruHearing provider provides the audiology test and hearing aid examination, there will be no charge to the Covered Teacher; the cost for the test and examination is included in the hearing aid benefit. **If a non-TruHearing provider is used for a hearing test or hearing aids, charges may apply, and they are not covered by the Fund.**

Hearing aids purchased through TruHearing include a three-year extended manufacturer's warranty, which includes three-year repair and three-year loss or damage (one-time loss only). If a claimant loses a hearing aid or it is deemed damaged beyond repair, the claimant is responsible for the replacement cost. If the original aid was a TruHearing hearing aid, the claimant is responsible for up to a \$400 deductible fee per ear (varies by manufacturer (per year).

The Fund does not pay for replacement of lost or damaged hearing aids or the deductible. Please contact TruHearing for details regarding coverage under warranty.

The Fund does not pay for replacement of lost or damaged hearing aids. Please contact TruHearing for details regarding coverage under warranty.

The Fund will pay for (an) additional hearing aid(s) only if:

1. it is for the other ear; or

2. a prescription changes and the device cannot be reprogrammed; or,
3. three years have elapsed since an existing hearing aid was purchased, provided that the recipient first undergoes an audiology test.

When a prescription changes, the hearing aids can often be reprogrammed by a TruHearing provider. Provider reprogramming fees may apply.

How to Obtain Hearing Aid Benefits

TruHearing Hearing Aid Network

1. Contact a TruHearing Hearing Counselor Consultant at (833) 898-1282 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
2. A TruHearing Hearing Consultant will register the Covered Teacher or Eligible Dependent, check eligibility and coordinate a hearing test appointment with a network provider for you and provide an appointment confirmation and appointment reminder.
3. After the appointment, the provider will review their recommendation and place the order if the member is ready to select hearing aid style. The TruHearing Provider will collect payment for non-covered services accessories or materials and, where applicable, will provide financing options that are available through TruHearing.
4. The hearing aid(s) are then ordered by the provider. A Hearing Aid fitting appointment will be made, where the patient is fit with the hearing aid(s) which then begins a 60-day trial period.
5. After the completion of the 60-day trial period both the patient and the provider sign off to show acceptance of the hearing aid(s). The patient is then mailed batteries in installments (if applicable, for non-rechargeable devices).

Out-of-Network

There is no out-of-network benefit for hearing aids.

A HEARING AID BENEFIT WILL NOT BE PAID FOR HEARING AIDS PURCHASED WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION FROM A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST.

The plan only covers prescription hearing aids through TruHearing.

Prepaid Legal Services Benefit

The Health and Welfare Fund makes available through a separate Trust Fund Prepaid Personal Legal Services for Covered Teachers and their dependents. A description of this benefit is available in a separate information booklet issued by the Trustees of the Boston Teachers Union Prepaid Legal Services Fund.

BENEFITS FOR COVERED TEACHERS ONLY

Hospitalization Income Supplement Benefit

If a Covered Teacher is confined in a hospital⁵ because of illness or injury for three or more consecutive days, the Covered Teacher can receive the Hospitalization Income Supplement benefit beginning with the third day of hospitalization. This benefit is payable up to 52 weeks for each hospital stay, as long as the member remains eligible.

The amount of the Income Supplement is as follows:

Consecutive Days In a Hospital	Amount of Benefit
0 – 2	None
3 – 6	\$75
7 – 13	\$150
14 – 20	\$300
21 – 27 etc.	\$450 etc.

If you are confined in a hospital for three or more consecutive days, obtain a claim form from the Fund Office. You need not wait until you are discharged from the hospital to request your claim form, although you should not submit the claim until you are discharged.

Funeral Expense Benefit

In the event of the death of a person who is a Covered Teacher at the time of death, the Fund will make a reimbursement payment equal to the amount of the funeral expenses, but not exceeding \$4,500.

This payment will be made to the estate of the Covered Teacher or to a person equitably entitled thereto, provided a Death Certificate and satisfactory proof of payment of funeral expenses are submitted to the Fund Office.

Recreational Benefit

⁵ The term “hospital” means an institution operated pursuant to law and which is primarily engaged in providing, for compensation from its patients, medical and diagnostic facilities for the care and treatment of sick and injured persons on an inpatient basis and which provides such facilities under the supervision of a staff of physicians and with 24-hour-a- day nursing service by registered graduate nurses and which is accredited as a hospital under one of the programs of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

The Health and Welfare Fund finances recreational benefits. These presently are a Softball League and a Fun Run. All recreational benefits are open to both male and female Covered Teachers. Dependents are eligible to participate in the Fun Run, but are not eligible for any other recreational benefits.

The recreational leagues are usually structured into separate divisions. A deposit is required for equipment issued to each team, and to ensure participation. The deposit is refunded if equipment is returned and the team did not forfeit any game. In some cases, an entry fee may be required.

Special information regarding each recreational benefit is mailed to each school prior to the league season.

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

The Boston Teachers Union Health & Welfare Fund and the Boston Teachers Union Paraprofessional Health & Welfare Fund (“the Funds”) are committed to maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of your healthcare information. Further, as health plans which are “covered entities” subject to the federal Privacy Rule issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) (referred to hereinafter collectively as “the Privacy Rule” or “the Rule”), the Funds are required to maintain the privacy of your individually identifiable health information and to provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information which in this Notice is referred to as Protected Health Information (PHI). Specifically, PHI includes the following: individually identifiable health information,⁶ as defined by HIPAA, that is created or received by us and that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual. PHI includes information of persons living or deceased.

The Funds provide certain supplemental health benefits to Teachers and Paraprofessionals employed by the Boston School Committee and members of their families. Covered benefits include:

- Eye care
- Dental care
- Hearing aids

These functions make the Funds subject to the Privacy Rule in their capacity as health plans. This Notice describes how we use and disclose your PHI to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law.

⁶ Genetic information is a type of health information.

How the Funds May Use or Disclose Your Protected Health Information (PHI)

The Funds may use and disclose your PHI for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations, for purposes required by state or other applicable federal law, and for other purposes permitted by the Privacy Rule without your written authorization. The following categories describe the ways in which we may use and disclose your PHI. For each category of uses and disclosures, we will explain what we mean and present some examples.

Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, the various ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will generally fall within one of these categories.

A. Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations

1. **Treatment.** As a health plan, our role is generally to arrange and/or pay for health services provided to you by health care providers, rather than to provide direct treatment ourselves, other than in the Eye Care Center. However, we may disclose your PHI to appropriate persons in order to coordinate your care or to conduct case management activities, and that is considered “treatment” under the Privacy Rule.
2. **Payment.** We may use or disclose PHI about you to determine eligibility for Plan benefits, facilitate payment for the treatment and services you receive from health care providers, determine Plan responsibility for benefits, and coordinate benefits. For example, payment functions may include reviewing the medical necessity of certain health care services, or determining whether a service is covered under your Plan.
3. **Health Care Operations.** We may use and disclose PHI about you to carry out necessary administrative functions. For example, such activities may include: conducting quality assessment and improvement activities; underwriting and premium rating; conducting or arranging for dental review, legal services, audit services, accreditation activities, business planning, management, and general administration.

B. Required By Law

We may be required by state or federal law to report certain matters to government agencies (e.g., suspected child abuse), although most required reporting comes from health care providers rather than health plans.

C. Permitted Uses and Disclosures

1. **Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose your PHI to health agencies during the course of audits, investigations, licensure and other proceedings related to oversight of the health care system.
2. **Disclosures About Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence.** We may disclose your PHI, consistent with applicable federal and state laws, if we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. Such disclosure will be made to the governmental entity or agency authorized to receive such information.
3. **Judicial and Administrative Proceedings.** We may disclose your PHI in the course of an administrative or judicial proceeding. For example, we may disclose medical or insurance information when required by a court order in a litigation proceeding.
4. **Law Enforcement.** Under limited circumstances (such as required reporting laws or in response to a grand jury subpoena), we may disclose your PHI to law enforcement officials.
5. **Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may disclose your PHI to a coroner, medical examiner or funeral director as necessary for them to carry out their duties.
6. **Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may disclose your PHI to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.
7. **Research.** We may disclose your PHI to researchers when an institutional review board or a privacy board has (a) reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of the information; and (b) approved the research.
8. **Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose your PHI when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety, or to the health and safety of others. Any such disclosure will be made to someone who would be able to help prevent the threat. However, this does not include activities to conduct a criminal, civil, or administrative investigation or impose liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating health care, or to identify any person for these activities.
9. **National Security.** We may disclose your PHI for national security purposes as authorized by federal law.

10. **Workers' Compensation.** We may disclose your PHI to the extent necessary to comply with laws concerning workers' compensation or to comply with similar programs that are established by law and provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
11. **Disclosures to Plan Sponsors (Board of Trustees).** We may disclose certain information to the sponsor of your group health plan (Board of Trustees), for purposes of administering benefits under the Plan, provided that certain confidentiality requirements under the Privacy Rule have been met.

We may contract with others to assist us with our treatment, payment, health care operations or other activities that involve the use of your PHI. Such other parties may be our business associates. We require business associates to agree, in writing, to contract terms designed to safeguard your PHI that is shared with them.

Uses or Disclosures Require Written Authorization

EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE WILL NOT USE OR DISCLOSE YOUR PHI WITHOUT SPECIFIC WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM YOU. IF YOU DO AUTHORIZE US TO USE OR DISCLOSE YOUR PHI FOR ANOTHER PURPOSE, YOU MAY REVOKE YOUR AUTHORIZATION IN WRITING AT ANY TIME. IF YOU REVOKE YOUR AUTHORIZATION, WE WILL NO LONGER USE OR DISCLOSE PHI ABOUT YOU FOR THE REASONS COVERED BY YOUR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION, THOUGH WE WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE BACK ANY DISCLOSURES WE HAVE ALREADY MADE WITH YOUR PERMISSION.

When disclosure is permitted only with authorization:

1. When PHI does not fall into any of the above three categories, your written authorization will be required for disclosure, unless use or disclosure is prohibited even with authorization.
2. State law requires your written authorization before disclosing any records relating to mental health or substance abuse treatment.
3. Your written authorization is required for uses or disclosures of your PHI for marketing purposes, for sale of your PHI, and for disclosures of psychotherapy notes.

The use or disclosure of genetic information PHI for underwriting purposes is prohibited.

Underwriting purposes include the following: rules for eligibility, enrollment, cost sharing, computation of premium or contribution amounts and incentives for participation in wellness programs, as well as activities related to the creation, renewal or replacement of health insurance or health benefits.

Your PHI Rights

You have certain rights under the Privacy Rule. If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please submit your request in writing to the Funds' Privacy Officer, c/o Boston Teachers Union Health & Welfare Fund, 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198 (Phone (617) 288-0500). The request must be signed by you or your representative.

1. **Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to request, in writing, to inspect and obtain a copy of PHI in the possession of the Funds that may be used to make decisions about you and your Plan benefits. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge you a reasonable fee to cover expenses associated with your request. If your request is denied, we will provide you with information about our denial and how you can file a statement of disagreement.
2. **Right to Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to receive your PHI through a reasonable alternative means or at an alternative location, if you write us that receipt at your normal address might endanger you. Your request must be in writing. We will make every effort to comply with your request. If your request is denied, we will provide you with information about our denial and how you can file a statement of disagreement.
3. **Right to Request Amendment.** You have a right to request that the Funds amend any PHI record that you believe is incorrect or incomplete. You must provide a reason for your request. We are not required to change your PHI unless we are responsible for creating the record and we agree it is incorrect or incomplete. If your request is denied, we will provide you with information about our denial and how you can file a statement of disagreement.
4. **Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your PHI. The Funds are not required to agree to the restrictions that you request.
5. **Right to Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to receive a list or "accounting" of disclosures of your PHI made by us or our business associates, except that we do not have to account for disclosures made for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations, or disclosures authorized by you. Your request should specify a time period of up to six years and may not include dates before September 9, 2014. If your request is denied, we will provide you with information about our denial and how you can file a statement of disagreement.
6. **Right to Paper Copy.** You have a right to receive a paper copy of our current Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. You may also obtain a copy of this Notice at our website, at www.btuhwf.org.
7. **Right to Receive Notifications of Breaches.** You have a right to and will

receive notifications of breaches of your unsecured PHI.

If you would like to have a more detailed explanation of these rights or if you would like more information on how to exercise one or more of these rights, contact the Funds' Privacy Official at:

Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund

Boston Teachers Union Paraprofessional Health and Welfare Fund

180 Mount Vernon Street

Boston, MA 02125-3198

Your Personal Representative

You may exercise your rights through a personal representative. Your personal representative will be required to produce evidence of authority to act on your behalf before the personal representative will be given access to your PHI or be allowed to take any action for you. Proof of such authority will be a completed, signed and approved Appointment of Personal Representative form or other form acceptable under state or federal law.

We retain discretion to deny access to your PHI to a personal representative to provide protection to those vulnerable people who depend on others to exercise their rights under these rules and who may be subject to abuse or neglect.

Changes to This Notice of Privacy Practices

The Funds reserve the right to amend this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time in the future and to make the new notice provisions effective for all PHI that we maintain. We will promptly revise our notice and distribute it to you whenever we make material changes to the Notice. Until such time, we are required by the Privacy Rule to comply with the current version of this Notice.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated or if you have a complaint about how we handle your PHI, you should send a letter to Privacy Official, Boston Teachers Union Health & Welfare Fund, 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201.

For More Information

If you have questions about any part of this Notice or want more information about the Funds' privacy policies and procedures, call the Funds' Privacy Official at (617) 288-0500.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **Type of administration of the Plan:** The Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees. Five Trustees may be appointed by the Boston Teachers Union, and three Trustees may be appointed by the Boston School Committee.
2. **Name and address of the person designated as agent for the service of legal process:**
Eugene M. McGlynn, Sr., Fund Administrator 180
Mount Vernon Street
Boston, MA 02125-3198
3. **Type of Plan Benefits:** This Plan provides dental benefits, eye care benefits, hospitalization income supplement benefits and other special benefits and services, as described in this booklet.
4. **Employer Identification Number (EIN) issued to the Board of Trustees:**
04-2511984
5. **Names, titles and address of the Board of Trustees:**
Erik R. Berg, Chairperson
Elizabeth J. Drinan, Secretary
Sylvaine Lestrade
James A. Philip
Lea Serena
180 Mount Vernon Street
Boston, MA 02125-3198
6. **Name and address of the Fund Administrator:**
Eugene M. McGlynn, Sr.
Fund Administrator
180 Mount Vernon Street
Boston, MA 02125-3198
7. **The date of the end of the Plan Year:** August 31. Records of the Plan are kept on a fiscal year basis ending on that date.

8. **Remedies available under the Plan for the redress of claims which are denied in whole or in part:** In the event an eligible person is aggrieved by the initial determination as to eligibility for or amount of self-insured benefits, the eligible person may appeal to the Trustees for reconsideration within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt of the initial determination. The eligible person may appeal by letter directed to the Fund Office requesting reconsideration of the initial determination. The date of the postmark on the letter of appeal (or of the filing of an appeal form in the Fund office) shall be used to determine whether the appeal has been made within the 30-day limit.

Upon written request of the eligible person, the Trustees may grant an extension of the time within which to appeal the initial determination. Also, upon written request of the eligible person the Trustees may grant a hearing for the eligible person to present argument in support of the appeal.

The address and office of the Fund shall be: Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund, 180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02125-3198.

Any eligible person being aggrieved by denial by the Trustees of any claim against the Fund relative to benefits provided under the Plan may submit such claim to a person acting as arbitrator selected under and in accordance with the Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association for determination, which authority will be limited to determining whether the Trustees' decision was arbitrary or capricious, and his decision shall be final and binding on the eligible person or dependent claimant, the Fund, the Boston School Committee, the Boston Teachers Union, the Trustees and any participating insurance company. The fee and expenses of the person acting as arbitrator shall be shared equally by the eligible person or dependent claimant and the Fund.

This section shall apply in the event of a deadlock on the administration of the Fund. Such a deadlock shall be deemed to exist when, at two successive meetings of the Trustees at which such matter is voted upon by the Trustees, no vote is adopted expressing the position of the Trustees with respect to such matter, or if no quorum is present, at two successive meetings.

9. **The sources of contributions to the Plan:** The Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund receives annual payments on behalf of Covered Teachers from the City of Boston and/or the School Committee of the City of Boston pursuant to the applicable collective bargaining agreement between the Boston Teachers Union and the Boston School Committee acting for the City of Boston.

10. The identity of the organizations through which benefits are provided:

Payment for the Plan's dental benefits under Delta Dental PPO *Plus* Premier is provided directly by the Fund through an administrative services only contract with Delta Dental of Massachusetts. Payment for dental benefits under the Harvard Faculty Group Practice Benefit is provided directly by the Fund through an administrative services only contract with Delta Dental of Massachusetts. Other benefits are provided on a self-insured basis directly by the Fund, or by others under agreement with the Trustees.

11. Document inspection: Copies of the Trust Agreement, latest annual report, the rules and regulations of the Fund, and the current collective bargaining agreement provision for contributions to the Fund are available for inspection upon appointment with the Fund Office.

- a. The Trustees reserve the right to amend, modify or discontinue all or part of this Plan whenever, in their judgment, conditions so warrant.
- b. If you do not understand English and have questions about the benefits or rules of the Plan, contact the Fund Office to find out where to obtain such help.
- c. The Trustees reserve the right to refuse benefits to Covered Teachers or their dependents, who do not conduct themselves properly in their dealings with personnel employed by the Health and Welfare Fund.

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund Website

<https://btuhwf.org/benefits/health-welfare-fund/>

Teacher Online Account Portal –

<https://members.btuhwf.org/isite340/eremit.dll/34001/loginm.asp>

Visit this site to create an account for making monthly COBRA payments, changing contact information and enrolling for benefits. It provides self-service access to add/remove dependents, edit mailing address, change contact information, and obtain and upload completed authorization forms. Registering an account requires an email address to be used as a username and creating a password. An activation code is sent via email to be used to log in for the first time until the password is registered.

Phone References

Health and Welfare Fund	(617) 288-0500
Delta Dental Massachusetts (toll free)	(800) 872-0500
Delta Dental (Metropolitan Boston).....	(617) 886-1234
TruHearing Hearing Aid Network	(833) 898-1282
Eye Care Center	(617) 288-5540
Prepaid Legal Services.....	(617) 288-0497

The Trustees reserve the right to amend, modify or discontinue all or part of this Plan whenever, in their judgment, conditions so warrant.

If you have any questions about the benefits or rules of the Plan, please contact the Fund Office.

The Trustees reserve the right to refuse benefits to Covered Teachers or their dependents, who do not conduct themselves properly in their dealings with personnel employed by the Health and Welfare Fund.

**Boston Teachers Union
Health and Welfare Fund**

180 Mount Vernon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3198
(617) 288-0500
btuhwf.org