

Types of Exemptions from the Requirement to Have Health Insurance

Starting in 2014, everyone must have health insurance. The only people who do not need to get basic health insurance are the ones who get an “exemption.” This chart provides an overview of the different reasons you could get an exemption, where and when you need to apply, and how long each type of exemption lasts.

| Reason for getting an exemption | Where to apply | When to apply | How long you are exempt |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| You did not have health insurance for less than three months in a row | Tax return | At tax time | The months you were without coverage, up to three |
| Your income is low enough that you don't have to file taxes | On your tax return, or you are automatically exempt if you don't file a tax return for this reason | At tax time, or automatically | Calendar year |
| If you did not add in your dependent's income, your income alone would be low enough that you wouldn't have to file taxes | Tax return | At tax time | Calendar year |
| You would have to pay 8.05% or more of your household income for insurance (household income is the income from members of your household who are listed on your taxes) | Tax return | At tax time | Calendar year |
| You and a family member each get insurance through your own jobs, but the cost for both plans is more than 8.05% of your household income | Tax return | At tax time | Calendar year |

continued

Types of Exemptions from the Requirement to Have Health Insurance (continued)

| Reason for getting an exemption | Where to apply | When to apply | How long you are exempt |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Citizens living abroad and certain noncitizens (such as those not lawfully present) | Tax return | At tax time | Until the first full month that your immigration status has changed |
| You are in jail or prison after a conviction | Marketplace application or tax return | Any time within the year | Month(s) in which you are in prison or jail after a conviction |
| You are a member of a recognized health care sharing ministry that pays the health expenses of its members | Marketplace application or tax return | Any time within the year | Months in which you are a member of the ministry |
| You belong to a federally recognized Indian tribe | Marketplace application or tax return | Any time within the year | Continues unless you report a change |
| You belong to a religious sect that is opposed to insurance, such as the Amish | Marketplace application | Any time within the year | For adults, continues until you report a change; for children, continues until age 21, at which point you must apply on your own |
| You are eligible for services through an Indian health care provider or the Indian Health Service | Marketplace application or tax return | Any time within the year | Until you report that you are no longer eligible |
| Hardship Exemptions | | | |

Types of Exemptions from the Requirement to Have Health Insurance (continued)

| Reason for getting an exemption | Where to apply | When to apply | How long you are exempt |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You had an unexpected increase in basic expenses that prevents you from purchasing coverage; or the cost of coverage would deprive you of food, shelter, clothing, or other necessities; or other circumstances prevent you from getting insurance in the marketplace (such as homelessness, eviction, foreclosure, damage from natural disaster, etc.) you were in a plan that cannot be renewed and cannot afford other plans. | Marketplace application | It's best to apply right away when you have the hardship | At least three months; you may need to renew |
| Based on what you think your household income will be for the upcoming year, insurance would cost more than 8.05% of that income (including family coverage through your job) | Marketplace application | Before open enrollment ends, during a special enrollment period, or when you can enroll in a job-based plan | The rest of the year after you get the exemption |
| Your income is below 138% of poverty, but you can't get Medicaid in your state | Marketplace application or tax return | Any time within the year | Calendar year |

If you think you might qualify for one of the exemptions that require you to apply through the marketplace for a certificate, you can find out how from your state marketplace or www.healthcare.gov. For more information, call 1-800-318-2596; hearing impaired callers TTY/TDD number: 1-855-889-4325.

The complete *What You Need to Know about Health Insurance* series:

Applying for Health Insurance

Answering Questions about Your Family When Applying for Health Insurance

Answering Questions about Your Family's Income When Applying for Health Insurance

Applying for a Marketplace Plan if You Can Get Health Insurance through Your Job

What to Do if You Are Uninsured after February 15, 2015

Getting Financial Assistance

Getting Financial Assistance to Pay for Health Insurance

Deciding How Much Financial Assistance to Use to Lower Your Monthly Premiums

Will I Be Able to Get Financial Help to Pay for Health Insurance?

How Getting Financial Assistance to Pay for Health Insurance Affects Your Taxes

Getting Extra Financial Assistance to Help Pay Health Care Costs

Choosing a Health Plan

Choosing the Health Plan that's Right for You

Choosing a Health Plan You Can Afford

Understanding the Differences between Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Plans

Understanding Catastrophic Health Insurance

Buying Children's Dental Coverage through the Marketplace

Keeping and Using Health Insurance

How to Use Your Health Insurance

How to Keep Your Marketplace Health Insurance

What to Do after You Buy Health Insurance in the Marketplace

Understanding the Requirement to Have Health Insurance

Understanding the Requirement to Have Health Insurance

Understanding Minimum Essential Coverage

Reference Charts and Graphics

Income Guidelines for Getting and Using Financial Assistance for Health Insurance

Income Guidelines for Getting Extra Financial Assistance to Pay for Health Care Costs

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A complete list of Families USA publications is available online at www.FamiliesUSA.org/resources/publications.

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