



Division of Insurance



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPT. OF **LABOR**
& **REGULATION**

124 S. Euclid, 2nd Floor | Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605.773.3563 | Fax: 605.773.5369
insurance@state.sd.us
Larry Deiter, Director

Fall 2020

In this Issue

Page 1
Producer License
Examination Centers
Open

Temporary Licenses
Issued During COVID-19
Set to Terminate

Tools to Assist When
Shopping for Health
Insurance

Page 2
Cybercrime and Cyber-
Enabled Crime
Exploiting the Pandemic

FINRA Investor
Education Materials and
Alerts Available

Pandemic-related
Federal Emergency
Order Extended

CMS Issues 2020
Effectuated Enrollment
Report

Page 3
Paying Premium Tax via
OPTins

Administrative Rules
Adopted

SERFF Filing Access

Company Address
Service

Producer License Examination Centers Open

Division of Insurance Director Larry Deiter announces producer licensing testing centers are open and able to administer producer licensing examinations in South Dakota.

Persons wanting to complete the testing portion of their producer licensing requirements are encouraged to sign in to [PearsonVue](#) to schedule an exam.

[View information](#) pertaining to COVID-19 and testing.

Temporary License Availability During COVID-19 Set to Terminate

The South Dakota Division of Insurance has issued [Bulletin 20-05](#) to effectively end the option to apply for a temporary producer license during the COVID-19 pandemic as of September 11, 2020.

[Bulletin 20-03](#) announced the implementation of temporary insurance producer licenses due to the extraordinary circumstances created by COVID-19. Over 100 temporary license applications have been received by the South Dakota Division of Insurance since April 20, 2020.

With the issuance of [Bulletin 20-05](#), the majority of the temporary producer licenses issued will automatically expire on November 13, 2020. Some temporary licenses issued early on in the process will expire sooner. The Division will issue a reminder notification of impending temporary license expiration to license holders.

Testing centers have reopened across the state allowing persons seeking to hold a producers license to take the required examination. Temporary license holders are reminded they should pursue completing the producer examination and filing for a permanent producer license before their temporary license expires.

Tools to Assist When Shopping for Health Insurance

In conjunction with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), the South Dakota Division of Insurance is pleased to provide materials to assist consumers shopping for health insurance.

The [What to Ask When Shopping for Health Insurance](#) brochure and the [Health Insurance Shopping Tool](#) outline what to consider when comparing health insurance policies.

Cybercrime and Cyber-Enabled Crime Exploiting the Pandemic

The South Dakota Division of Insurance, in conjunction with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), warns of increased malicious cyber activity and scams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Various advisories and alerts have been issued providing information on scam activities and tips on how to protect yourself against fraudulent schemes that exploit vulnerabilities created by the pandemic. These include medical scams, imposter scams and money mule schemes related to coronavirus.

View [FinCEN COVID-19-related information](#) and additional [FinCEN advisories](#).

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Materials and Alerts Available

FINRA provides potential investors with investor education materials and alerts to help make smart, informed financial decisions and protect against fraud, scams or other investing issues.

View general [investor information](#).

View [information on fraudulent schemes related to COVID-19](#), including investment fraud, fake emails and phishing scams.

Pandemic-Related Federal Emergency Order Extended

The COVID-19 pandemic-related National Public Health Emergency Order that was set to expire on July 24, 2020 was extended another 90 days.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar II signed the extension due to the continued consequences of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) effectively moving the emergency order expiration until late October 2020.

CMS Issues 2020 Effectuated Enrollment Report

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2020 Effectuated Enrollment Report for the federally-facilitated marketplace.

Effectuated enrollment data is a measure of the number of consumers who selected a plan and have taken the additional steps necessary to keep the coverage in effect.

The report indicates total enrollment for South Dakota totaled 28,528 with 93% of the enrollment qualifying for the advanced premium tax credit (APTC) and 46% eligible for cost share reduction (CSR) in premium.

The average total premium per month for South Dakotans is \$678.80 and an average APTC of \$598.09.

View the [full report](#) and [2020 Marketplace open enrollment period public use files](#).

Paying Premium Tax via OPTins

The South Dakota Division of Insurance has implemented OPTins (Online Premium Tax for Insurance) for insurance companies paying premium tax. OPTins, a product of the NAIC, was developed to facilitate state-specific premium tax payments.

Companies will register and set up an account with OPTins in order to submit premium tax payments online. The payment is recorded as received by the South Dakota Division of Insurance upon submission by the company.

An OPTins product specialist will work with a company to set up an OPTins account. Setup of a new account takes five to seven business days.

If a company is already registered to use OPTins to file premium taxes to other states, no additional setup is required. The option to pay South Dakota premium taxes is available.

Companies should pay their annual and quarterly premium tax payments utilizing OPTins starting immediately.

View [additional information](#) about OPTins.

Administrative Rules Adopted

The South Dakota Division of Insurance adopted final administrative rules effective July 1, 2020. These rules:

- 1) update the sources referenced in rule to refer to the most recent edition,
- 2) update the Division's Medicare Supplement rules to incorporate the 2020 coverage amounts set by the federal government, and
- 3) clarify the information required for insurance companies to complete the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure provided by House Bill 1017 passed during the 2020 Legislative Session.

View the [full rules text](#).

SERFF Filing Access

Public access to company filings with final disposition and marked for viewing is now provided through SERFF Filing Access (SFA). SERFF, or the System for Electronic Rates and Forms Filing, is a product of the NAIC which provides a platform for form submittal, document management, and review access. Through SFA, filings are available anywhere with internet access, 24-hours a day. This public access to company filing information for South Dakota is provided at no cost to the user. [Access SFA](#).

Company Address Service

Insurance carriers are reminded to update their entity contact information through the "Company Address Service" portal link available on the Division's website.

Companies use their NAIC ID and assigned PIN to access the area to update company contact information. A company can use the "Need PIN" link available on the portal's main page to determine the company's designated PIN contact. If no contact is on file with the Division, please contact the Division at insurance@state.sd.us.