



Alexandria City Public Schools

Health Insurance Premium Holiday: Frequently Asked Questions Retirees

What is a premium holiday?

A premium holiday is a period in which the retiree's payment of the healthcare premium is waived by ACPS.

Why is ACPS giving us a premium holiday now?

ACPS has had favorable claims experience in the past few years and health fund reserves are projected to exceed targeted levels. ACPS established the health insurance fund to separately track all premium collections and healthcare costs three years ago. Typically, adjustments are made after a period of several years to ensure trends have been established and appear consistent.

ACPS provides a year-end estimate to the School Board each spring at which point the School Board makes decisions regarding changes in the use of funds.

Who is eligible for the premium holiday?

Retirees and their dependents that are currently enrolled in one of the ACPS medical plans with United Healthcare or Kaiser are eligible for the December 2016 premium holiday as long as they have paid the December 2016 premium. If you and/or your spouse are eligible for the medical premium holiday, you will receive a refund check from ACPS in the mail.

Will retirees who have no medical coverage get a premium holiday refund check?

No. The premium holiday only applies to retirees enrolled in either the United Healthcare or Kaiser medical plans sponsored by ACPS.

Can I expect to receive premium holidays in future years?

Given the upward trend in healthcare cost increases, it is not likely. However, with any self-funded plan, this possibility does exist. The Human Resources and Financial Services Departments will continue to review and monitor plan activity.

Will my medical, dental and vision premiums continue to be withheld from VRS pension payments during the premium holiday?

Yes. There will be no change to your health insurance deductions with VRS as a result of the December 2016 premium holiday. If you and/or your spouse are eligible for the medical premium holiday, you will receive a refund check from ACPS in the mail.

If I pay my medical insurance premium directly to ACPS, will I receive a premium holiday refund check?

a.) If you have already paid your December 2016 medical insurance premium, or will have paid it by December 31, 2016, a refund check will be issued to you by January 31, 2017.

b.) If you have not paid your December 2016 medical insurance premium by December 31, 2016, do not send us your payment. Your account will be adjusted and no payment will be due for your December 2016 medical insurance coverage. No refund check will be issued to you.

When will I receive my premium holiday refund?

Eligible retirees will receive the premium holiday refund check by January 31, 2017.

Whom do I contact if I have questions?

For questions regarding the medical premium holiday or your health insurance benefits, please contact Human Resources at 703-619-8010, or via email at hrbenefits@acps.k12.va.us.