



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

August 16, 2012

Dear City of Boston Employee,

I am proud to announce that the City of Boston has recently negotiated with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to significantly enhance the benefits that will be available to City employees who are trying to quit smoking. This type of enhancement is already available to employees who are enrolled in Blue Cross Blue Shield and Neighborhood Health Plan.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care will now include pharmacy coverage for Nicotine Replacement Products such as patches, gum and lozenges. All employees enrolled in the Harvard Pilgrim HMO and POS Health Plans should have received a post card mailed to their home informing them of this new and enhanced benefit. This enhancement ensures that all City employees who smoke, and their family members who smoke, have access to nicotine replacement products at an affordable cost.

In addition to this benefit enhancement, the City of Boston will begin offering FREE Smoking Cessation classes to all City employees. Three classes at three different City of Boston work locations will begin in October and additional classes will follow. Please contact Kathleen McGinnis, Assistant Director of Health Benefits by phone (617) 635-2590 or by email Kathleen.Mcginnis@cityofboston.gov to register. Other forms of support are already available through City health plans, including telephone and online counseling, all of which are summarized on the reverse side of this letter.

Quitting smoking is vital to your health and the health of others. I want to make sure that City of Boston employees who smoke have all the support that is available as they tackle this difficult – but critical – challenge.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

Smoking Cessation Assistance under City of Boston Health Plans

	BCBS	HPHC	NHP
Online Program	www.trytostop.org	www.trytostop.org	www.trytostop.org
Telephone Support	(800) 879-8678 (English) (800) 833-5256 (Spanish)	(800) 879-8678 (English) (800) 833-5256 (Spanish)	Speak directly to a Master Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist by Calling NHP's Plan to Quit line (617) 204-1447 or (800)-433-5556 x 1447
Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Products	Covered with a Doctor's Prescription – see below for details		
Prescription Drug Coverage	Bupropion - tier 1 Chantix – tier 2 Zyban - tier 3	Bupropion - tier 1 Chantix – tier 3 Zyban - tier 3	Bupropion – tier 1 Chantix – tier 2

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products include the following:

NRT	BCBS	HPHC	NHP
Nicotine Patch	Store brand (generic) at tier 1 pharmacy co-pay	Store brand (generic) at tier 1 pharmacy co-pay	\$0 co-pay Must use generic when available
Nicotine Gum	Store brand (generic) at tier 1 pharmacy co-pay	Store brand (generic) at tier 1 pharmacy co-pay	\$0 co-pay Must use generic when available
Nicotine Lozenge	Store brand (generic) at tier 1 pharmacy co-pay	Store brand (generic) at tier 1 pharmacy co-pay	\$0 co-pay Must use generic when available
Nicotrol Oral Inhaler	Tier 2 co-pay	Tier 3 co-pay	\$0 co-pay
Nicotrol Nasal Spray	Tier 2 co-pay	Tier 3 co-pay	\$0 co-pay

City of Boston Smoking Cessation Courses

Course 1	Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room	Mondays at 5:30PM
Course 2	BTD 200 Frontage Rd, Conference Room	Tuesdays at 3:30PM
Course 3	BCYF Central Office, 3 rd Floor Conference Room	Wednesdays at 5:30PM

All courses start the week of October 1st and will run for 5 weeks. No Monday class on Oct 8th due to the holiday. Therefore, the Monday classes will run through November 5th.

Class size is limited to 15 participants. To register, please contact Kathleen McGinnis, Assistant Director of Health Benefits at (617) 635-2590 or by email Kathleen.McGinnis@cityofboston.gov.