



## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 4, 2019

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### **HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIRED FOR CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS**

SHASTA COUNTY – Starting January 1, 2020, Californians will be required to maintain qualifying health insurance coverage.

Under the new mandate, uninsured residents could face a financial penalty. A taxpayer who fails to secure coverage may be subject to a minimum penalty of \$695 for each adult and \$347 for each child in the household when they file their 2020 state income tax return in 2021. The penalty is based on income and the number of people in your household. There are exemptions to the penalty, and families will not have to pay a penalty if the cost of their health care coverage exceeds a certain percentage of their income.

To take some of the financial burden off Californians, state subsidies are available to middle-income individuals and families who apply through Covered California, including those who had not previously qualified for financial help because they exceeded federal income requirements. Lower-income individuals and families may receive financial help in addition to any federal assistance they may already receive.

California is the first state in the nation to offer these additional subsidies. The new benefits could begin as early as January 1, 2020 for those individuals eligible on the first day of the new year. Enrollment must be complete by December 15 to be eligible on January 1. Enrollment began on October 15, 2019 and has been extended through January 31, 2020.

Those interested in applying directly for Medi-Cal can contact the Customer Service Center at 1-877-652-0731 or visit one of the five Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency offices to

apply: 1220 Sacramento St., Redding; 2757 Churn Creek Road, Redding; 2889 E. Center St., Anderson; 4216 Shasta Dam Blvd., Shasta Lake City; and 36911 Main St., Burney.

If you have questions about Medi-Cal, please contact the Customer Service Center at (877) 652-0731.

To learn more about health insurance and new changes coming in 2020, visit [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com).

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