

Medicare enrollment now open, continues through Dec. 7

People with Medicare have until Dec. 7 to make changes to their health plans and pre-scription drug coverage to meet their health care needs for 2021.

Medicare’s open enrollment period for 2021 benefits has now started. There are several changes for the 2021 plan year. They are:

- 29 prescription drug plans
- More than 100 Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, including a new Medicare Medical Savings Account MA option, available in all Oregon counties
- Part D senior savings model for diabetic supplies
- Acupuncture, telehealth, and other virtual services
- End-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients can enroll in Medicare Advantage plans for 2021

Visit [Medicare.gov/Plan-Compare](https://www.medicare.gov/Plan-Compare) to find 2021 health and drug plans, compare coverage options, or estimate Medicare costs. For more details, check out the 2021 Medicare and You book or [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

The Oregon Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program is available to help beneficiaries understand their options.

To find free, local Medicare counseling help, go to [dcb-spape.org/SHIBALOCAL](https://dcb-spape.org/) or call 800-722-4134 (toll-free) to speak to a state-certified Medicare counselor. SHIBA counselors can help Oregonians navigate the [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) Plan Finder tool to enter pre-scriptions and compare the cost and benefits of individual drug plans, provide enrollment guidance, and answer any other questions related to Medicare benefits.

All of these services are available remotely statewide to ensure the safety of both clients and counselors.

Find local help by calling 800-722-4134 (toll-free) or visiting SHIBA. [Oregon.gov](https://www.Oregon.gov).

Oregon SHIBA is part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency.

Visit dcbs.oregon.gov. Follow DCBS on Twitter: twitter.com/OregonDCBS.

Receive consumer help and information on insurance, mortgages, investments, workplace safety and more.

As temperatures drop, State Fire Marshal reminds Oregonians about fire prevention

As Oregon experiences cooler weather and many community members begin to spend more time at home, the Office of State Fire Marshal will be engaging in support of the national campaign of Fire Prevention and is running cooking fire safety messaging for the month of October.

Oregon’s theme mirrors the 2020 national theme: “Serve up fire safety in the kitchen!”

“Nationally, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, with unattended cooking being the leading cause of fires in the kitchen,” said Assistant Chief Deputy Claire McGrew. “In Oregon, cooking was the leading known cause of residential structure fires over the past five years, through 2019.”

According to data collected from the Oregon fire service for the National Fire Reporting System, home fires caused 29 deaths in Oregon in 2019, and fire agencies in Oregon responded to 2,790 home fires; and cooking was the leading known cause of residential structure fires over the past five years (2015-19), causing an average of 19 percent of Oregon’s total residential structure fires and six deaths.

To help keep you safe in the kitchen, cooking fire safety tips include:

- Keep your cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (potholders, food packaging, towels, etc.), and wipe up surface spills.
- Create a three-foot kid- and pet-free zone around the stove.
- Older children should only cook with permission and under the supervision of an adult.
- Have a lid or cookie sheet within reach while cooking (to smother flames) in case of a fire.

If a cooking fire does start:

- Put a lid on it! Slide a lid over the pan (from the side) and then turn off the burner.
- Don’t move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and cooled, and don’t try to transfer the pan to the sink.

If you cannot quickly extinguish the fire:

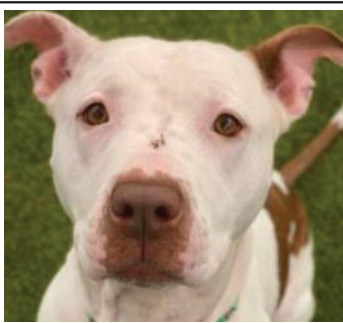
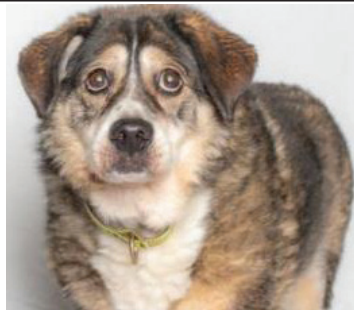
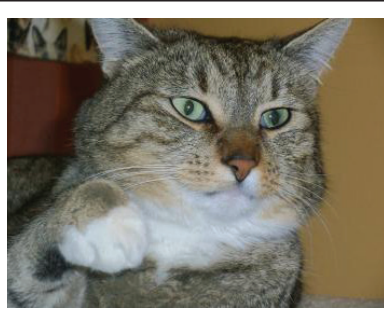
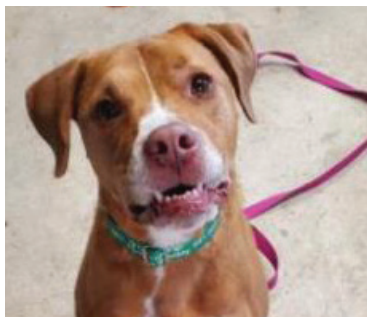
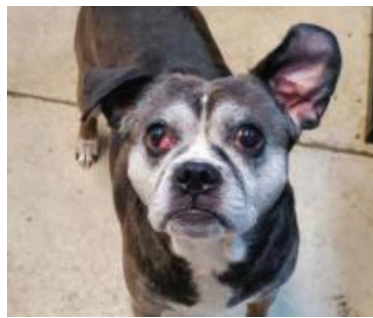
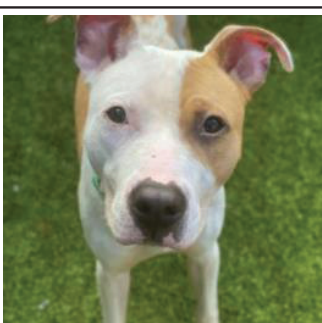
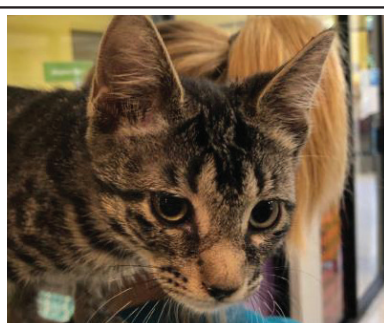
- Get you and your family safely out of the house.
- If you can, close doors as you are escaping, to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 from a safe place (outside).

“This year has been a challenging one for Oregonians,” says State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple. “As we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19 and now the impacts of the Oregon fire season.”

All of these pets are looking for their forever home...



To find out more about adopting these pets contact the Greenhill Humane Society, SPCA at 541-689-1503

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