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## ***IN CASE YOU MISSED IT***

### **California Sees Record-Low Rate Change for the Second Consecutive Year**

**August 6, 2020** – This week, Covered California announced preliminary health insurance premium rate changes for 2021, which are expected to change at a record-low rate of 0.6%.

The record-setting low rate change is a result of the continued strong partnership between health plans, Governor Newsom, Covered California, and the Legislature, as well as health plans' efforts to keep health care affordable and accessible for all. Also included in the announcement was information about the expansion of coverage into new counties, leading to 99.8%, "virtually all Californians" having a choice of two carriers and "88% the ability to choose from three carriers or more."

Covered California's announcement was highly anticipated given the COVID-19 pandemic. Peter Lee pointed to the increase of telehealth appointments and increased enrollment as largely responsible for cost rebounds. California's health plans have worked to support both providers offering telehealth and patients who utilize these services, as they cover telehealth services and all pay providers the same rate as in-person visits.

New rates for 2021 demonstrate the success of efforts by both health plans and lawmakers, making affordable care more accessible than ever before.

The California Association of Health Plans also released a [statement](#) in response to Covered California's announcement:

"Covered California's announcement today of record-low premium rate growth during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis demonstrates the continued strong partnership between Governor Newsom, Covered California, the Legislature, and health plans, to ensure health care is affordable for all Californians," said Bacchi. "Californians can rest assured that health plans are dedicated to providing the affordable high-quality healthcare they expect and deserve.

"Health plan efforts to keep health care affordable and California's recent actions to provide more state subsidies and implement a requirement that consumers have healthcare coverage are just a few of the crucial actions that have contributed to these historically low rates," Bacchi said. "We look forward to building on the gains we have achieved in California's health care marketplace."

For more information on California's health plans' efforts and support of policies to lower the cost of premiums, visit <https://yourplanyouradvocate.com>.