Dear UFT Welfare Fund member,

Your UFT Welfare Fund team is here to help you. We take pride in doing our job well. Health benefits are essential and have never been more important. To meet the demand, there are more ways than ever to access your benefits.

The UFT Welfare Fund is available to serve you, whether by phone, by email, through our automated forms hotline, online or in person, whichever you prefer. You can call a Welfare Fund representative Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 212-539-0500, or call our forms hotline, available 24/7, at 212-539-0539.

You can also use the following email addresses to contact the Welfare Fund:

For prescription drug assistance, rxhelp@uftwf.org.
For COBRA assistance, cobrahelp@uftwf.org.
For assistance with dental benefits, dentalhelp@uftwf.org.
For assistance with all other health benefit issues, healthbenefithelp@uftwf.org.

You can access our forms and information at www.uftwf.org, where you can find the 2022 edition of the Red Apple (which describes the Welfare Fund benefits), online forms, listing of panelists, online enrollment and much more.

The UFT Welfare Fund office at 52 Broadway, on the 7th floor, in Manhattan is open to serve you.

The chart below is an introduction to our Welfare Fund supervisors. They are seasoned professionals who are here to help you deal with any issues that arise in their areas of expertise. They are available by phone from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday through Friday.

In-service and retired members may choose from many different city-provided health benefits. Please visit our website at www.uft.org/new-york-city-health-plans and review our comparison charts of New York City health plans to learn more. Whichever plan you have opted to join, you will find that there are new ways to utilize your benefits, such as telemedicine appointments to speak with a doctor or nurse over the phone or through an online videoconference. You can also call the number on the back of your health insurance card to learn about your plan’s offerings.

If you want to change your health benefit provider, see the article on page 5 and be mindful of the transfer period when you can make that change.

I am delighted that we were able to enhance several benefits for 2022. Check out the article on optical benefits on page 6. We have eliminated paper optical certificates and introduced a digital process for providing your free or discounted eye exams, eyeglasses and contact lenses. Our optical benefit reimbursement was increased in March 2022, and the digital process enhanced ease of use and the speed at which claims are paid. The hearing aid benefit was also increased with a larger reimbursement; see article on page 7. In addition, the annual optional rider benefit for retirees, which provides a partial reimbursement for the purchase of a prescription drug rider, has also increased.

Additionally, I want to mention an innovative program for members who are facing cancer. The UFT Welfare Fund has partnered with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the top-ranked cancer hospital in the Northeast, to provide members with expedited care and clinical support through a program called MSK Direct. Read about it on page 4.

To better understand your in-service prescription drug coverage, see the article on the facing page. There are several different ways for you to fill your prescription drugs. Our Smart 90 program enables you to get 90-day prescriptions filled locally at retail stores. To do so, you must go to a Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. As always, members have the option to have a 90-day supply delivered right to their doors from the Express Scripts pharmacy. Should you require immediate assistance with a prescription drug outside of office hours, please call Express Scripts at 800-723-9182.

Life has been challenging during the past two years. We want your Welfare Fund benefits to be easy to access and readily available when you need them.

Wishing everyone prosperity, happiness and health.

Sincerely,

Geof Sorkin
UFT Welfare Fund Executive Director

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**UFT Welfare Fund Your Health Benefit Supervisors**

- **Geof Sorkin**
  Executive Director
- **Joe Usatch**
  Assistant Director
- **Anesa Soley**
  Assistant Director
- **Matt Kirwan**
  Deputy Assistant Director
- **Tanya Rodriguez**
  Personnel Director/Parental Leave Department Supervisor
- **Kathy Carbone**
  Member Services Department Supervisor
- **Akiiah Osorio**
  Claims and Eligibility Department Supervisor
- **Glenn Erlich**
  Pharmacy Department Supervisor
- **Lee Hendelman**
  Dental Department Supervisor
- **DeAndre Berry**
  Optical Department Supervisor
- **Shirley Jordan**
  Disability and Death Benefit Department Supervisor

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*Wishing everyone prosperity, happiness and health.*

**Sincerely,**

**Geof Sorkin**

**UFT Welfare Fund Executive Director**