

Using your UFT Welfare Fund benefits

Dear UFT Welfare Fund eligible in-service and retired members,

Your UFT Welfare Fund team is here to help you as we continue to deal with the coronavirus pandemic that has changed our world in so many ways. Health benefits have never been more important and 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, through our automated forms hotline, or online, 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 access our forms and information at www.uftwf.org, where you can find the new 2020 edition of the Red Apple (our description of Welfare Fund benefits), online forms, listing of panelists, online enrollment and much more.

As this issue of the special UFT Welfare Fund section goes to press, we don't yet have a date for the reopening of the Welfare Fund office at 52 Broadway, on the 7th floor, in Manhattan. But rest assured that when we do reopen, we will be following all social distancing and cleaning protocols to make sure the office is a healthy environment for you to come to and for our staff to work in. Masks and gloves will be required and we will schedule people to ensure there is

no overcrowding in our office.

The chart below is an introduction to our Welfare Fund supervisors. They are seasoned professionals who are here to help you navigate 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.

There are many different city-provided health benefits available for in-service and retired members to choose from. 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 may be surprised to learn 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 their offerings.

If you want to change your health benefit provider, see the article on page 5 and be mindful of the transfer periods when you can make that change. This year, it will be the month of October for in-service members to change their plans and the month of November for retired members to change their plans. The transfer period is offered annually for in-service members and every two years for retired members.

I also want to mention an innovative program

we are offering to 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 for an overview. When you need prescription drugs from the UFT's provider, Express Scripts, you can order your medication by phone, by mail or online. Our new 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 door from the Express Scripts pharmacy.

Life has been challenging during this pandemic. We want your Welfare Fund benefits to be easy to access and readily available when you need them.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy year ahead.

Sincerely,

Geof Sorkin
UFT Welfare Fund Executive Director

UFT Welfare Fund Your Health Benefit Supervisors



Geof Sorkin
Executive
Director



Joe Usatch
Assistant
Director



Hernoune Nicolas
Assistant
Director



Anesa Soleyn
Deputy Assistant
Director



Tanya Branch
Personnel Director/Parental Leave
Department Supervisor



Kathy Carbone
Member Services Department
Supervisor



Glenn Erlich
Pharmacy Department
Supervisor



Elliot Kurtz
COBRA/Special Leave of Absence
Continuation (SLOAC) Department
Supervisor



Lee Hendelman
Dental Benefit
Supervisor



Catherine Creegan
Health and Cancer Helpline
Supervisor



DeAndre Berry
Optical Benefit
Supervisor



Shirley Jordan
Disability and Death Benefit
Department Supervisor