



# WHOLE you



ISSUE 2, 2022

Welcome to another edition of *Whole You*, a newsletter from Peach State Health Plan.

Peach State Health Plan is looking forward to sharing the important information in this issue with you. The inside is filled with great advice that can help us cope, stay safe, and stay healthy. We've got tips on sun protection, managing allergies, and how to identify signs of Alzheimer's Disease and PTSD. Plus, there's also a quick and easy recipe that's perfect for all your seasonal fruits.

If you missed the last issue, [you can view it on our website](#). It's filled with great info on kicking old habits, starting healthy new ones, and more.



We hope you enjoy this issue and that it helps you take better care of the whole you.

## Want to learn how to get the most from your Peach State Health Plan benefits?

Nothing is more important than taking care of you and your family.

Learn about the medical care and benefits you can receive with Peach State Health Plan at our [New Member Orientation events](#).



Join us whether you are new to our health plan or just need a refresher on all the benefits of Medicaid and more!

Here you can learn about the complete health and pharmacy services, plus value added benefits Peach State Health Plan offers—all at no cost.\*

*\*Some Medicaid members may not have all the benefits listed.*

## Shots Aren't Just for Kids

### Adult vaccinations have a lot of benefits.

Below are tips to help you protect your health and the health of others.

#### 1 Keep Records

Keep track of your immunizations and put the information in a safe place. Having an accurate record can save you time and money by preventing unneeded vaccinations. Ask your primary care provider to make sure you're current on your shots.

#### 2 Stay Current

Some immunizations require "boosters" to remain effective. Depending on your age and health, you may also be at risk for different diseases that vaccinations help prevent. Certain shots, like the flu shot, are needed every year. Check with your healthcare provider to find out which vaccines can help you stay healthy.

#### 3 Don't Worry

Many people worry about getting shots. But you shouldn't. Vaccines are tested under strict regulations before they are deemed safe. Few people experience side effects from immunizations. But those who do usually have mild ones like soreness at the spot of the shot. Speak with your healthcare provider if you have any concerns about an immunization.

#### 4 Stay Healthy

Many people cannot afford to get sick. Vaccines can help you stay healthy so you don't miss work. If you can avoid getting sick, you will have more time for your family, friends, and hobbies.



Keep track of your immunizations and put the information in a safe place. **Having an accurate record can save you time and money** by preventing unneeded vaccinations.



**Some immunizations require "boosters" to remain effective.** Ask your primary care provider to make sure you're current on your shots.

**Vaccines give you the best protection available against a number of serious diseases. They are some of the safest ways to protect your health and the health of others.**

## Tips to Triumph Over Seasonal Allergies

Allergy season is here and it affects millions of people every year. The following tips can help you get through allergy season more comfortably.



- 1. Consider allergy testing.** Ask your healthcare provider or allergist about the benefits of allergy testing. Allergy testing helps medical providers find out what triggers your allergies. Once you know what works for your body, you can create a plan to stay comfortable during allergy season.
- 2. Limit time outside.** If it's dry and windy, try to stay inside. Rain reduces pollen on outdoor surfaces, so that's a better time to enjoy the outdoors. The time of day matters, too. Pollen counts are high in the morning. So, plan outdoor activities in the evening when counts are low.
- 3. Monitor the allergy index in your area.** Technology makes it easy to know how pollen will affect your day before you go outside. Most TV stations broadcast allergy forecasts during the weather. Websites, apps, and text messaging programs can also alert you to conditions in your area.
- 4. Breathe easier inside.** At home or while riding in a car, turn on the air conditioner, instead of opening the windows. Open windows bring allergens inside. High-efficiency air filters can also help your air conditioner work even better. Keep carpets and floors clean of pet dander and dust. Also, take a bath or shower before going to bed to keep pollen off sheets.
- 5. You are what you eat.** Many people don't realize that certain foods can make you have an allergic response. Keep track of the food you eat. Pay attention of foods that cause nausea, headaches, dizziness, wheezing, or an itchy throat. Sugars, wheat, dairy, and processed foods can increase allergic reactions and mucus production. Drink plenty of water to flush and hydrate your system.

## Sunscreen Safety 365



### Sunscreen Safety 365

**Protection from UV rays is important all year long, not just in the summer.**

**UV rays can reach you on cloudy and cool days, too. They also reflect off surfaces like water, cement, sand, and snow.**

**In the United States, UV rays tend to be strongest from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Broad-spectrum sunscreen can help protect your skin from harmful UVA and UVB rays. Here are a few tips to consider when choosing and using sunscreen:**

**SPF:** Choose a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. The higher the number the more protection for your skin.

**Amount:** Apply sunscreen in a thick layer all over exposed skin. Don't forget hard-to-reach places like your back.

**Reapplication:** Sunscreen wears off. Put it on again if you stay out in the sun for more than 2 hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.

**Expiration date:** Check your sunscreen expiration date. Sunscreen without an expiration date has a shelf life of no more than 3 years. Its shelf life is shorter if it has been exposed to high temperatures.

**Pair it up:** Sunscreen works best in combination with other sun protection options like sunglasses, hats, shade, and sun protective clothing.



### Apple Pecan Kale Feta Salad *With Maple Apple Dressing*

#### Salad

- 3 cups kale, de-stemmed, washed, and torn
- 1 apple, sliced thinly
- 2 tablespoons cranberries
- 2 tablespoons pecans
- 3 tablespoons crumbled feta

#### Maple-Apple Vinaigrette Dressing

- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

#### Salad

- Place the kale in a large bowl. Add the apples, cranberries, pecans and feta cheese on top.

#### Maple-Apple Vinaigrette Dressing

- Whisk the ingredients together and pour over the salad.



## Enjoy!

## A Little Dirt Never Hurt: Getting Kids Outside to Play

*There are lots of fun ways to bring the outdoors into your children's everyday activities. Here are a few tips to encourage your little ones to move playtime outside and enjoy some fresh air.*



- 1. Provide Options.** Struggling to get the kids off the couch? Give them a couple of options when choosing something to do outside. Making children feel like they are in charge is key. Children like to do things when they are a part of the decision-making process. Create a summer bucket list with fun outside activities. Help them check things off as the summer goes on!



- 2. Move Toys.** Bringing your child's favorite indoor activities outside is an easy way to make playing more exciting. Pack up the dolls, building blocks, or costumes and take them outside to see what happens.



- 3. Make It Friendly.** Make sure your outdoor space is safe for kids. You can set up a fence for small kids and remove all dangerous items. If playground equipment isn't an option, don't stress. Give children time to explore. Nature will give them plenty of entertainment.



- 4. Enjoy Play - Rain or Shine!** Encourage your kids to play outside, even on rainy days! Make sure there is no thunder and lightning in the area first. A pair of rubber rain boots and old clothes go a long way. Don't be afraid to join in the fun. If your children see you splashing around, they'll be more likely to enjoy the mess!



- 5. The More the Merrier!** Make it a play date by inviting some of your children's friends over. Set up a weekly schedule to give them something to look forward to. Providing children time to interact with one another is a great way to help develop their social skills. Bringing more minds together helps expand kids' imaginations and creativity, resulting in more fun games to play outside!



## Spotting the Signs of Alzheimer's Disease

### *Day-to-day memory loss may be a sign of Alzheimer's Disease.*

In support of Alzheimer's Disease awareness month in June, we created the following list that can help you understand the difference between simple forgetfulness and symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease.

#### **1 Can't remember things.**

Everyone forgets the day sometimes. But forgetting the season could be a sign of more.

#### **2 Simple tasks are hard.**

Another sign of Alzheimer's Disease is having trouble following basic instructions or keeping track of routine bills.

#### **3 Problems with money.**

Everyone spends money from time to time. Alzheimer's Disease sufferers sometimes fall for internet scams or make other poor money decisions for no reason.

#### **4 Items go missing.**

We all lose our keys but they usually turn up in the usual spots. People who cannot retrace their steps or remember where they were all day may be struggling with Alzheimer's Disease.

#### **5 Avoiding people.**

Relaxing along after a long day is ok. People suffering with Alzheimer's Disease may avoid the people they love all together.

**You should contact Peach State Health Plan if you or someone you know is experiencing any of the problems above.**



## Understanding PTSD and Its Causes

*Trauma can take many forms. Any experience that threatens your life or someone else's can cause post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Over 8 million people in the United States suffer from some form of PTSD. The good news is that you are not alone and there is treatment that works.*

**June is PTSD awareness month. Below are four common symptoms related to PTSD:**

### 1. Reliving the event.

Memories of the trauma, or flashbacks, can happen at any time. They can feel real and be very scary. Memories can be triggered by something that reminds you of the event.

### 2. Avoiding things that remind you of the event.

You may try to avoid certain people or situations that remind you of the event. You may also try to stay busy you don't have to think about the event.

### 3. Having more negative thoughts and feelings than before.

You may feel more negative than you did before the trauma. You might be sad or numb. You may feel that the world is dangerous and you can't trust anyone. It may be hard for you to feel happiness or be positive.

### 4. Feeling on edge.

It may feel hard to relax. You might have trouble sleeping or concentrating. You may suddenly get angry or irritable. You may feel like you are always on the lookout for danger.



**If thoughts and feelings about a trauma are bothering you, you should talk to your mental health care provider to learn more about PTSD and PTSD treatment.**



**Over 8 million people** in the United States suffer from some form of PTSD.



We care about you and we're here for you. **Call 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD 1-800-255-0056)**. Our care team is here Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If you need to talk to someone immediately for your mental health needs, please call our **24-hour crisis line at 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD 1-800-255-0056)**.

*If thoughts and feelings about a trauma are bothering you, you should talk to your mental health care provider to learn more about PTSD and PTSD treatment.*



# Thank you for being our member.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU AGAIN IN 2022.

*We get you the medical care and special benefits you  
and your family want and need.*

### ■ **Dental and Vision Benefits**

Care for your teeth and eyes with exams and other services. Receive \$100 to use for glasses, contact lenses or broken frames.

### ■ **My Health Pays**

Complete healthy activities and earn up to \$300 in rewards.\*

### ■ **Get Fit**

Focus on your health. Get a free membership to a participating gym\* or join Weight Watchers\* with access to online and in-person workshops for ages 18 and older OR join the KURBO program for teens ages 13-17.\*

### ■ **Over the Counter (OTC)**

Each head of household can order \$12 of OTC items each month without a prescription and mailed to your home. Plus, allowances can be rolled over for up to three (3) months at a time.

### ■ **YMCA, Boys & Girls Club and Girl Scout Memberships**

Now offering kids the opportunity for healthy living and help learning new skills. Annual YMCA membership for ages 6-18 at participating clubs. Boys & Girls Clubs® Memberships up to \$60 of annual membership fee for grades K-12.

### ■ **Educational Support**

Help get your kids to the head of the class with our steps to success resources. Get personal tutoring services for kids grades K-12. Access to GED & SAT/ACT benefits and internet access for virtual activities.

### ■ **Internet Access**

Members in grades K-12 may be eligible to receive an internet hotspot to help with virtual access to school activities. Plan would pay for up to three (3) months of internet access during the school year.



### ■ **Extra Benefits and More!\***

We help remove barriers to care. Receive up to \$250 annually in housing assistance. \$50 gas card annually for eligible members ages 21 & up\*. Rides to doctor and pharmacy for PeachCare for Kids®. Up to \$175 annually to help pay for childcare costs\*

*\*Rewards are for eligible and qualified members. Effective July 1, 2022.*

**Visit [PickPeachState.com](https://www.PickPeachState.com)  
to learn more.**

**If you have any questions,  
please contact us at  
1-800-704-1484  
(TTY/TDD 1-800-255-0056).**

Stay connected and more:

Your **online member account** is a great way to not only stay up to date with important plan information but also to help improve your health!

Look at everything you can do:

- Manage your **myhealthpays**® rewards
- Find or change your doctor
- Get care through our virtual health services
- Join our Start Smart for Your Baby®
- View your claims status and more!



### Update Your Contact Information

Please take the time to make sure your contact information is up to date so you don't miss important information about your Medicaid benefits.

It's important for us to know if you have changed your phone numbers or moved to a new address.

If the Georgia Department of Community Health does not have your current contact information, you may miss important communications.

Visit [gateway.ga.gov](http://gateway.ga.gov) to check your contact information.

**[psHP.com](http://psHP.com) • 1-800-704-1484 (TDD/TYY 1-800-255-0056)**

Peach State Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex

Do you need help understanding this? You can get information in another language, large print, braille or audio. Call: 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD 1-800-255-0056).

Si usted, o alguien a quien está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Peach State Health Plan, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD 1-800-255-0056).

Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Peach State Health Plan, quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thêm thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD 1-800-255-0056).