

AUG 13, 2019

HEALTH INSURANCE RATES ON NEW YORK'S STATE EXCHANGE ARE SET TO JUMP 6.8 PERCENT NEXT YEAR. THAT'S THE AVERAGE INCREASE APPROVED BY THE STATE'S INSURANCE COMMISSION IN THE LATEST ROUND OF PRICE ADJUSTMENTS. BUT SOME LOCAL PLANS WILL RISE EVEN MORE. THAT INCLUDES UNITED HEALTHCARE, WHICH HAD A 15 PERCENT INCREASE APPROVED BY REGULATORS. OFFICIALS SAY RISING MEDICAL AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS ARE DRIVING THE PRICE HIKES, WHICH ARE SOME OF THE LARGEST IN THE ENTIRE NATION.

AUG 16, 2019

NEW YORK HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST VACCINATION RATES IN THE NATION. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL, WHICH FOUND THE STATE HAS AROUND NINETY PERCENT OF IT'S STUDENTS VACCINATED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, AND MENINGITIS, WHILE THE RATE FOR MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, AND PERTUSSIS WAS EVEN HIGHER. OFFICIALS ARE ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO MAKE SURE THEIR CHILDREN ARE FULLY VACCINATED AS THEY HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL OR OFF TO COLLEGE

SEPT 30, 2019

1-POINT-2 BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S HOW MUCH DIABETES IS COSTING NEW YORKERS ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT FROM THE STATE COMPTROLLER. DIABETES HAS EXPLODED IN THE EMPIRE STATE, WITH NEARLY TEN PERCENT OF THE POPULATION SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE. ALMOST ALL OF THOSE PATIENTS ARE DIAGNOSED WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES LINKED TO OBESITY. THAT'S A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE STATE'S MEDICAID SYSTEM, SINCE IT'S A CHRONIC CONDITION THAT CAN'T BE CURED, LEADING TO A LIFETIME OF HEALTH CARE COSTS.

OCT 23, 2019

2-POINT-9 BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S THE PROJECTED SHORTFALL IN NEW YORK'S MEDICAID BUDGET, AND IT COULD GET A LOT WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER. THE MASSIVE LIABILITY COMES AS MEDICAID COSTS CONTINUE TO SOAR FAR ABOVE PROJECTIONS. THAT COULD PUT A WRENCH IN NEXT YEARS BUDGET, FORCING LEGISLATORS IN ALBANY TO EITHER RAISE TAXES TO MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL, OR CUT SERVICES. IF THE STATE DOES CUT PAYMENTS IT COULD LEAVE HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL PROVIDERS SCRAMBLING FOR FUNDING.

OCT 23, 2019

PATIENTS WHO NEED MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT WILL SOON BE ABLE TO GET IT FROM THEIR COMPUTERS. THE STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH HAS APPROVED PSYCHIATRISTS TO OFFER SERVICES REMOTELY VIA COMPUTER TELECONFERENCING. THE MOVE IS SEEN AS A WAY TO FIGHT THE CRIPPLING SHORTAGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS AVAILABLE IN RURAL AREAS. UNDER THE LAW LICENSED PROFESSIONALS WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH PATIENTS USING PROGRAMS LIKE SKYPE OR FACEBOOK VIDEO CHAT.