Harvard's 2015 health benefits changes and you

Open Enrollment for employee benefits ends November 19, and a number of important changes are occurring to health insurance benefits for faculty and non-union employees that you should know about before making final benefits decisions. To learn more, take this tutorial or attend one of the information sessions being offered. The tutorial covers the health plan changes for faculty, nonunion staff and retirees under age 65, including how the deductibles, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximums will work, and is followed by a short self-assessment to help you focus on the plans that may best meet your needs and those of your family.

More on the School's name change transition

With HSPH's name slated to officially change in January to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, you should continue using current HSPH branding through year end — but may want to begin limiting any large printing or re-printing projects when possible until the new name and branding guidelines are completed and released in early 2015. That way, materials can be more quickly transitioned to the new name rather than having large supplies of materials with the old name that need to be used up first. Contact Julie Rafferty in Communications with questions.

Campaign to reduce firearm suicide wins support among NH firearm retailers

Nearly half of firearm retailers in New Hampshire displayed materials from a firearm suicide prevention campaign generated by a coalition of gun owners and public health professionals.

Around the School

Alumni Weekend
Nearly 200 alumni recently returned to the School for the annual reunion. This year’s event focused on ways in which big data will have an impact on the future of public health.

Symposium gathers experts on homeostatic regulation
Attendees at the 17th annual John B. Little Symposium heard about research including radiation epidemiology and how certain genes extend lifespan.

Hack Ebola (with Data!)
Statistics without Borders and other humanitarian organizations have been consolidating data on West Africa in hopes of better understanding the Ebola epidemic, and they need data scientists of all kinds to discover patterns relating to the spread of the epidemic. HackEbola is a data hackathon to address this important need.

Participants will be provided time series of Ebola cases, as well as a large amount of structured information about various regions. The goal is not only to be able to predict cases, but to also determine what factors are important for good prediction (and ideally actionable.)

Where: Northwest Building, Harvard (52 Oxford Street)
Important Dates:
November 17: Data made available
November 21, 5:00 PM: Kickoff
November 23, 4:00 PM: Closing of the hackathon (but the analysis can continue)

Applicants should notify ORSD of their interest. Contact Amanda Spickard at 617-432-1711 with questions.

Harvard Art Museums re-open November 16
The Fogg Museum, the Busch-Reisinger Museum, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum are now united under one roof. The museums are hosting special events that will give the Harvard community opportunities to preview the expanded galleries.