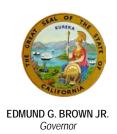


State of California—Health and Human Services Agency Department of Health Care Services



December 31, 2015

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 15-43

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: MEDIL Internal Revenue Service Form 1095-B Mailing for Minimum

Essential Coverage recipients

The purpose of this Letter is to inform counties that beginning the week of January 4, 2016, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will be mailing the enclosed cover letter and Form 1095-B to all Medi-Cal recipients that meet the Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) requirement for the 2015 tax year.

To avoid a tax penalty mandated by the Affordable Care Act, all individuals are required to obtain health coverage that meets MEC requirements for at least nine (9) calendar months out of the year. Internal Revenue Code Section 6055 requires DHCS to issue Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1095-B to each Medi-Cal beneficiary who received MEC health coverage from DHCS for any month during the tax year. MEC Medi-Cal also includes cash-linked Medi-Cal programs such as California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, Foster Care and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The California Department of Social Services will be providing further information regarding the 1095-B as related to cash-linked programs that offer Medi-Cal. Beneficiaries will use Form1095-B as proof to report their Medi-Cal health coverage when they file their federal taxes. DHCS will also be submitting the information on Form 1095-B as it is their proof of MEC provided by DHCS.

DHCS will mail out Form 1095-B in January 2016 per the attached mailing schedule (Attachment 1). The attached schedule identifies the scheduled dates of the mailing to particular counties and zip codes.

A copy of the cover letter in English and Spanish and Form 1095-B are enclosed with this letter (Attachments 2, 3 and 4). DHCS anticipates counties will receive questions from beneficiaries related to the cover letter and Form 1095-B and counties are reminded that

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they shall assist beneficiaries with answering questions and processing any changes that may be reported to ensure correct information will be reported on the Form 1095-B. A copy of the DHCS Call Center script (Attachment 5) containing answers to questions that the Medi-Cal Helpdesk will use to address inquiries received from beneficiaries is provided for counties to reference should inquiries are directed to county workers or helplines. County eligibility workers cannot give tax advice. Please refer the beneficiaries to the various resources identified in the attachments. Also, a copy of updated frequently asked questions is enclosed (Attachment 6) and available on the DHCS website at http://dhcs.ca.gov/1095.

A separate All County Welfare Directors Letter is being developed and will provide guidance on issues such as the reprinting of Form 1095-B, correcting Medi-Cal eligibility records and issuing corrected Form 1095-B, and the handling of disputes.

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Debora Wong-Kochi at (916) 327-6672 or by e-mail at Debora.Wong-Kochi@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sandra Williams, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Attachments

Form 1095-B Mail Order by County/Zip Code

	Mail Order by C					
Jan 7-9	Jan 11-13	Jan 14-16	Jan 18-20	Jan 21-23	Jan 25-27	Jan 28-30
Alameda	Alpine	Amador	Butte	Calaveras	Colusa	Contra Costa
Del Norte	El Dorado	Glenn	Humboldt	Imperial	Inyo	Kern
Kings	Lake	Lassen	Madera	Marin	Mariposa	Mendocino
Merced	Modoc	Mono	Monterey	Napa	Nevada	Santa Cruz
Yolo	San Joaquin	San Mateo	Placer	San Benito	Siskiyou	Shasta
Yuba	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Plumas	Solano	Sonoma	Sierra
Stanislaus	Sutter	Tehama	Trinity	Tulare	Tuolumne	93034
93044	93066	93036	91358	91319	93031	93011
93060	93094	93006	93009	93004	93016	93035
93061	93099	91361	91362	91361	93022	93010
93043	93065	91361	91359	93003	93023	91377
93040	93062	93005	93001	91361	93020	93015
93041	93063	93007	91360	93030	93021	93033
93042	93064	91320	93002	93024	93032	93012
94130	94125	94107	94119	94116	94177	94143
94129	94127	94103	94122	94159	94188	94140
94133	94126	94102	94121	94160	94172	94139
94131	94109	94105	94118	94158	94163	94137
94132	94108	94104	94115	94147	94164	94142
94123	94111	94112	94114	94151	94141	94145
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93608	93605	93772	93721	93710	95693	95864
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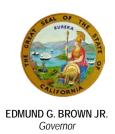
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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency Department of Health Care Services



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Dear Medi-Cal Recipient,

You are getting this letter because you had Medi-Cal in 2015. Attached to this letter is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1095-B that is proof that you had minimum essential health coverage during the 2015 tax year. Please save this form for your records in the event you will need to show proof of coverage. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires most people to show they had full health coverage during the tax year.

You may receive multiple 1095-B forms because:

- Form 1095-B is sent to each person enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that meets the health coverage requirement in the ACA. This means you could receive multiple forms if other people in your household also have Medi-Cal.
- 2. If you or your family member had a change in health coverage after Form 1095-B was sent, you will receive a new form with the correct coverage.
- 3. Some people will receive Form 1095-B if they also have Medicare.

Here are some questions you may have with answers to help you with IRS Form 1095-B:

Q: Why am I getting Form 1095-B?

A: DHCS sends this form to each person who has Medi-Cal that meets the health coverage standards required by the ACA.

Q: How come some months that I had Medi-Cal are not on the form?

A: There are some kinds of Medi-Cal that do not count as full health coverage. If you think we made a mistake, call the Medi-Cal 1095-B Helpdesk at 1-844-253-0883. Or, for TTY call 1-844-357-5709.

Q: What if some of the information listed on my Form 1095-B is incorrect?

A: Please contact your local county human services agency to speak with a county eligibility worker. They will be able to assist you with correcting incorrect information on your form, clarify any questions you might have about the information on your form, and reissue a new Form 1095-B to be sent to you through the mail.

To locate your local county human services agency, you can either go to http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL for a list of county offices or call our Medi-Cal 1095-B Helpdesk at 1-8444-253-0883 or TTY, call 1-844-357-5709.

If you or a member of your household is receiving Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment benefits, then you should contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to update your contact information.

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website: https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

Q: I received another form that looks like Form 1095-B. Why?

A: There are other IRS tax forms that are similar to Form 1095-B:

- IRS Form 1095-A This form is sent to people who received health insurance through Covered California.
- IRS Form 1095-B Some people will receive an additional Form 1095-B if they received Medicare.
- IRS Form 1095-C This form is sent to people who had health insurance through a large employer.

If you received any of the forms identified above, **do not throw these forms away**. The 1095 forms serve as proof that you had qualifying health coverage in 2015.

Q: What do I need to do if I file federal taxes?

A: If you file your federal taxes, you will use the information on Form 1095-B as proof that you had health coverage in 2015. The last day to file your taxes or request an extension without risking a penalty is April 18, 2016.

Q: Is there someone who can help me file my federal taxes?

A: Here are some resources to help you file your taxes:

You can get help from your local Taxpayer Assistance Center Office.

To find an office near you, visit: http://apps.irs.gov/app/officeLocator/index.jsp or call 1-800-829-1040.

If you need additional information about the ACA and tax filing, you can visit the following websites:

DHCS, Form 1095-B: http://dhcs.ca.gov/1095

• Federal Healthcare Exchange: www.healthcare.gov

• IRS, ACA: www.irs.gov/aca

Q: What if I only had health coverage for part of the year?

A: Unless you qualify for an exemption, you may get a tax penalty. Please refer to www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act for more details on the taxes and the ACA.

Q: What can I do if I think I will get a tax penalty?

A: Not everyone who did not have health coverage has to pay a penalty. There is also help if you cannot afford to pay the penalty or have other reasons why you cannot pay the penalty. If you think you may incur a tax penalty, please refer to the sites below to see if you qualify for an exemption.

- https://www.healthcare.gov/fees-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee
- https://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families/ACA-Individuals-and-Families/ACA-Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision-Exemptions

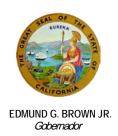
If you need someone who can help explain the exemptions to you, you can also call the Medi-Cal 1095-B Helpdesk at 1-844-253-0883.

For questions regarding this notice:

- Visit the http://dhcs.ca.gov/1095 website for more details.
- Call the Medi-Cal 1095-B Helpdesk at 1-844-253-0883. Or, for TTY, call 1-844-357-5709.



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency Department of Health Care Services



Fecha: Spanish format = **DD/MM de 2015**

Estimado beneficiario de Medi-Cal:

Se le envía esta carta porque usted tuvo Medi-Cal en 2015. Adjuntamos a la presente el formulario 1095-B del IRS (el departamento de impuestos de EE.UU). Este formulario demuestra que tuvo cobertura de salud mínima durante el año fiscal 2015. **Guarde este formulario con sus papeles importantes para el caso en que tenga que presentar comprobante de su cobertura.** La Ley de Cuidado de Salud Asequible requiere que la mayoría de la gente demuestre que tuvo cobertura de salud completa durante el año fiscal.

Tal vez reciba varios formularios 1095-B por los siguientes motivos:

- 1. El formulario 1095-B se envía a todas las personas inscritas en Medi-Cal que cumplen los requisitos de cobertura de salud de la Ley de Cuidado de la Salud Asequible. Esto significa que es posible que reciba varios formularios si otras personas de su hogar también tienen Medi-Cal.
- 2. Si se produce algún cambio en su cobertura de salud o la de un familiar después del envío del formulario 1095-B, recibirá otro formulario con la cobertura correcta.
- 3. Las personas que también tienen Medicare recibirán otro formulario 1095-B.

Estas son algunas preguntas que tal vez tenga y respuestas a las mismas para ayudarle con el formulario 1095-B del IRS:

P: ¿Por qué recibo el formulario 1095-B?

R: El Departamento de Servicios de Cuidado de la Salud (DHCS) envía este formulario a todas las personas que tienen Medi-Cal y que cumplen los requisitos de cobertura de salud de la Ley de Cuidado de la Salud Asequible.

P: ¿Por qué algunos de los meses en que tuve Medi-Cal no figuran en el formulario?

R: Algunos tipos de Medi-Cal no cuentan como cobertura de salud completa. Si cree que cometimos un error, llame al: 1-844-253-0883, la línea especial de Medi-Cal para preguntas sobre el 1095-B. Para teléfonos TTY, llame al: 1-844-357-5709.

P: ¿Qué hago si algunos datos en mi formulario 1095-B no son correctos?

R: Póngase en contacto con el asistente de elegibilidad de la oficina de servicios humanos local de su condado. Le pueden ayudar a corregir la información incorrecta de su formulario, aclararle cualquier duda que tenga sobre la información de su formulario y emitir y enviarle un formulario 1095-B nuevo.

Puede encontrar la oficina de servicios humanos local de su condado en http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL, donde accederá a una lista de oficinas de condado. O llame al: 1-844-253-0883, la línea especial de Medi-Cal para preguntas sobre el 1095-B. Para teléfonos TTY, llame al: 1-844-357-5709.

Si usted o alguna persona que vive en su hogar recibe los beneficios de Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario o Pagos Suplementarios del estado (SSI/SSP), debe comunicarse con la Administración de Seguridad Social (SSA) para actualizar su información de contacto.

- Línea gratuita de la SSA: 1-800-772-1213.
- Sitio web para buscar oficinas de condado locales de la SSA: https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

P: Recibí otro formulario que se parece al formulario 1095-B. ¿Por qué?

R: Hay otros formularios de impuestos del IRS que se parecen al formulario 1095-B:

- Formulario 1095-A del IRS: este formulario se envía a la gente que recibe seguro de salud a través de Covered California.
- Formulario 1095-B del IRS: las personas que también tienen Medicare recibirán otro formulario 1095-B.
- Formulario 1095-C del IRS: este formulario se envía a personas que tuvieron seguro de salud a través de un empleador de gran tamaño.

Si recibió alguno de los formularios arriba mencionados, **no los tire.** Los formularios 1095 sirven como prueba de que tuvo cobertura adecuada en 2015.

P: ¿Qué hago si presento una declaración de impuestos federales?

R: Si presenta una declaración de impuestos federales, tendrá que usar la información del formulario 1095-B como prueba de que tuvo cobertura de salud en 2015. El último día para presentar una declaración o pedir una extensión sin riesgo de multa es el 18 de abril de 2016.

P: ¿Hay alguien que pueda ayudarme a presentar mi declaración de impuestos federales?

R: Estos son algunos recursos para ayudarle a presentar sus declaraciones de impuestos:

- Puede obtener ayuda de su Centro de Asistencia al Contribuyente local.
 Para encontrar un centro cercano, visite: http://apps.irs.gov/app/officeLocator/index.jsp o llame al 1-800-829-1040.
- Puede obtener ayuda gratuita con los impuestos en su oficina de Asistencia
 Voluntaria sobre Impuesto a la Renta (VITA) o del programa de Orientación
 Impositiva para Mayores (TCE). Este servicio es para gente que en general gana
 \$53,000 o menos por año, personas con discapacidades, personas mayores y
 contribuyentes con poco conocimiento del inglés. Para encontrar el centro más
 cercano, puede visitar el sitio web localizador en http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/.

Si necesita más información sobre la Ley de Cuidado de la Salud Asequible y declaraciones impositivas, puede visitar estos sitios web:

- DHCS, formulario 1095-B: dhcs.ca.gov/1095
- Mercado de seguros médicos: <u>www.cuidadodesalud.gov/es/</u>
- IRS, ACA: www.irs.gov/Spanish/Disposiciones-Tributarias-de-la-Ley-de-Cuidado-de-Salud-a-Bajo-Precio

P: ¿Qué hago si solo tuve cobertura de salud durante parte del año?

R: A menos que califique para una excepción, podría tener que pagar una multa impositiva. Puede obtener más información sobre los impuestos y la Ley de Cuidado de la Salud Asequible en www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act.

P: ¿Qué puedo hacer si creo que me pondrán una multa impositiva?

- **R:** No todos que no tuvieron cobertura de salud tienen que pagar una multa. También hay ayuda si no tiene dinero para pagar la multa o si tiene otros motivos por los que no puede pagar la multa. Si cree que se le podría imponer una multa impositiva, visite estos sitios web para ver si califica para alguna excepción.
 - <u>www.cuidadodesalud.gov/es/health-coverage-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/</u>
 - www.irs.gov/Spanish/Disposicion-de-la-Responsabilidad-Compartida-para-Individuos-Exenciones

Si necesita ayuda para que le expliquen las excepciones, puede llamar a la línea especial de Medi-Cal para preguntas sobre el 1095-B al: 1-844-253-0883.

Para cualquier duda sobre este aviso:

- Visite el sitio web <u>dhcs.ca.gov/1095</u> para más información.
- Llame a línea especial de Medi-Cal para preguntas sobre el 1095-B al: 1-844-253-0883. Para teléfonos TTY, llame al 1-844-357-5709.

orm 1095-B

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Health Coverage

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Internal Revenue Service	ternal Revenue Service Information about Form 1095-B and its separate instructions can be found at www.irs.gov/form1095b.															
Cove	ered Individual															
1 Name of Covered Individual				2	Social sec	urity num	nber (SSI	N)	3	Date of	birth (if	SSN is n	ot availa	ble)		
				;	###-	##-										
4 Street address		5 City or town		6	State or p	rovince			7	Country	and ZIP	or forei	gn posta	l code		
Heal	th Coverage Issuer															
Cove	ered Individual															
(a) Name of covered individu	ual (b) SSN	(c) DOB (if SSN is n	not ((d) Covered all 12					(e	e) Mon	ths of co	overage				
		available)		months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	###-##-															
17 Case Number	18 CIN	19 C	overage pro	ovided on this I	Form 109!	5-B is cur	rent as o	f the dat	te below	·:	•					

<u>Instructions</u>

Part I: This section will contain the personal information from the Medi-Cal record for the person receiving health coverage for the tax year shown in the upper right corner of this form. This information should be correct. If not, please contact your county human services agency to update your record and request a new corrected Form 1095-B.

Part II: This section contains the information for the California Department of Health Care Services, who is reporting your Medi-Cal health coverage to the IRS. You may use the contact phone number to reach a live agent at our helpdesk that will provide answers to questions you may have about this form or our reporting process.

Part III: This section will show the person's months of coverage. If the person has all twelve months of coverage, box (d) will be marked. If not, box (e) will show the separate months this person had health coverage that met the requirement for the tax year.



PROCEDURE TASK GUIDE

Function	Service Center
Task Group	Service Center General
Process	Answering Consumers Inquiries Pertaining to Receipt of IRS Tax Form 1095-B
Job Roles	Service Center Representative (SCR)

Overview

The following protocol is in effect until further notice to assist Medi-Cal consumers with questions regarding the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Tax Form 1095-B they will receive regarding their Medi-Cal coverage.

Initial training information:

Per Section 6055 of the Internal Revenue Code, consumers enrolled in most Medi-Cal programs are considered to have Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) and they will receive an IRS Tax Form 1095-B (Form 1095-B) under the administration of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Form 1095-B is an IRS form that consumers who have health insurance through the Medi-Cal program may use when they file federal income taxes. The consumer or their tax preparer may use the information on the form to report MEC for the tax year; however, the consumer may self-attest to their coverage without their form. Form 1095-B is not required to submit a tax return unless directed by the IRS.

The IRS also receives an electronic copy of Form 1095-B for consumers enrolled in the Medi-Cal programs that are designated as MEC.

Form 1095-B will be mailed to consumers postmarked by January 31 prior to the tax filing season. A cover letter will be included with the form to advise consumers of the form's purpose.

Form 1095-B contains information pertaining to the consumer's Medi-Cal MEC, including:

- Name
- Address
- Social Security number (Last 4 digits only)
- Date of Birth (will only display if a SSN is not available)

Months of Medi-Cal that meet the requirement for MEC

Other similar tax forms consumers may receive from sources other than DHCS/Medi-Cal:

- 1095-A If a household member received health coverage through Covered California.
- 1095-B If a household member received health insurance through a government sponsor, like Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Medicare, or Veterans benefits. Households may receive more than one Form 1095-B for each type of coverage.
- 1095-C If a household member received health insurance through a large employer. (Small employers are not required to send forms.)

Additional key information:

- Every person, adult or child, who is or was enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that met the requirement for Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC), will get his or her own Form 1095-B.
- SCRs **cannot** give tax advice and should limit the information they provide consumers about federal tax regulations or requirements. SCRs **can** refer the consumer to various resources available such as:
 - VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance): 1-800-906-9887.
 - Link to local <u>VITA offices</u> for in-person assistance.
 - IRS.gov website includes:
 - Specific information about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and tax implications.
 - Link to local <u>IRS offices</u> for in-person assistance.
 - The Federal Health Care Exchange website at <u>www.healthcare.gov</u>.
 - The DHCS 1095-B website at http://dhcs.ca.gov/1095

Form 1095-B

What is the Form 1095-B?

Form 1095-B is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) document that is proof that a person had health insurance that counts as Minimum Essential Coverage during the last tax year. As part of the Affordable Care Act, the IRS requires most consumers to get health insurance that meets this requirement every year. This is called the "individual mandate." If a consumer does not have health insurance that meets the requirement, they may have to pay a tax penalty for being uninsured. If a consumer is required to file taxes, they can self-attest their coverage. Consumers are not required to submit a copy of the Form 1095-B with their tax return, but they should still keep it for their records.

• Who does not receive a Form 1095-B?

Consumers who are enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that does not meet the requirement for Minimum Essential Coverage, will not get a Form 1095-B.

The list below provides a few examples of Medi-Cal or state funded programs that do not meet the requirement:

- Medi-Cal with a Share of Cost
- Restricted Medi-Cal, (sometimes called "emergency" Medi-Cal)
- Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment programs(FPACT)
- Special treatment programs such as treatment for tuberculosis, dialysis, and parenteral hyper-alimentation
- State-funded full-scope coverage. This coverage is provided to immigrants who qualify for full scope Medi-Cal coverage but are federally eligible for restricted scope benefits, including immigrants who are subject to a five-year bar on federal full scope Medi-Cal eligibility.

• How will I get Form 1095-B?

Form 1095-B will be mailed to consumers by January 31 following the tax year. A cover letter will be included with the form to advise the consumers of the form's purpose. If consumers would like their mail to go to a new address or if they need to update their address because they moved, please refer them to their county human services agency to update their contact information.

SSI/SSP recipients:

If the consumer or a member of their household gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP), the consumer or the member of their household who gets SSI/SSP must contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in person or by phone to update their information used by Medi-Cal.

Update SSA by phone: 1-800-772-1213.

Update SSA in person: SSA local office locator website (https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp).

What do I need to do with my Form 1095-B?

Form 1095-B is used as proof of minimum essential coverage. It should be kept for the consumer's personal record in the event the IRS may require someone who has filed their taxes to provide proof of their coverage.

Note:

Please remind consumers, Form 1095-B is not required to file their taxes and they may self-attest their coverage without it.

Why does Medi-Cal/DHCS send Form 1095-B to the IRS?
 Medi-Cal is required by the federal government to send Form 1095-B information to the IRS for the purpose of validating months of health insurance reported by the person filing their taxes.

Why did I get more than one Form 1095-B from Medi-Cal and what should I do with all of them?

Medi-Cal will mail a Form 1095-B to every person enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that meets the requirement for Minimum Essential Coverage.

If the consumer received another copy of their Form 1095-B, it could be a corrected Form 1095-B. A corrected Form 1095-B will have a box checked "Corrected" at the top of the form. If it is a corrected form, then this new form is the most current version of their Form 1095-B. Please remind consumers, Form 1095-B is not required to file their taxes and they may self-attest their coverage without it.

• What if I do not file a tax return?

SCRs **cannot** give tax advice and should limit the amount of information they provide to consumers about Federal tax regulations or requirements.

SCRs **can** refer the consumer to various resources available to find out if they need to file taxes such as:

- o VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance): 1-800-906-9887.
 - Link to local VITA offices for in-person assistance.
- o IRS.gov website includes:
 - Specific information about the Affordable Care Act and tax implications at www.irs.gov/aca.
- o Link to local <u>IRS offices</u> for in-person assistance.

• What if I only had Medi-Cal for part of the tax year, do I still get a Form 1095-B?

Yes, DHCS is responsible for reporting all months of Medi-Cal coverage meeting the requirement for Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). DHCS must also provide a Form 1095-B to all consumers whose coverage was reported to the IRS. The form will show which months the consumer had MEC.

• What will happen if I only had health coverage for part of the year?

If the consumer had health coverage for only part of the year, the consumer may have to pay a tax penalty.

Instruct the consumer to go to the IRS website to learn more about short health coverage gaps and other reasons the consumer may be exempt from the penalty. The consumer can take an online interview using the Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) that will help the consumer determine if they are eligible for a health coverage exemption. Click on "Begin" to start the online interview.

The IRS also has information about other health coverage exemptions and information on how to <u>claim or report exemptions</u> (available in <u>Spanish</u>).

What will happen if I had Medi-Cal for part of the year and then I purchased a Covered California health insurance plan?
 Consumers will get a Form 1095-B for their Medi-Cal coverage and they will also get a Form 1095-A from Covered California. Each form will show the months of coverage that met the requirement for minimum essential coverage

 Some people in my home have Covered California and others have Medi-Cal. Will the Form 1095-B show members of my household who are not enrolled in any Medi-Cal program?

for any months of coverage they got from either Medi-Cal or Covered

No. Medi-Cal will report each person's months of coverage to the IRS separately and will send that person their own Form 1095-B. Every home will get a Form 1095-B for each person enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that meets the minimum essential coverage requirement. If they have family members enrolled in Covered California, they should expect to receive Form 1095-A.

• I'm a non-citizen but lawfully present in the United States and enrolled in Medi-Cal, will I still get an IRS Form 1095-B?

All consumers, regardless of immigration status, who receive Medi-Cal coverage that meets the requirement for minimum essential coverage, will receive a Form 1095-B.

Note:

California.

Consumers may be exempt from filing taxes or reporting their Medi-Cal coverage due to their immigration status. They can take an online interview using the Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) that will help them determine if they are eligible for a health coverage exemption. They may click on "Begin" to start the online interview.

The IRS also has information about other health coverage exemptions and information on how to claim or report exemptions (available in Spanish).

• I'm receiving Medi-Cal because I am undocumented and not lawfully present. Will I still get an IRS Form 1095-B?

No. Undocumented consumers and consumers who are not lawfully present are not required to have minimum essential coverage. Consumers may go to www.healthcare.gov for more information.

• If I have an authorized representative noted on my Medi-Cal record, can they receive or request Form 1095-B on my behalf?

Currently, authorized representatives are not allowed to request a consumers Form 1095-B. If the consumer requests that someone else receive their tax information, the consumer may either provide them their Form 1095-B information directly or they may request to have a reprint of their Form 1095-B

mailed to a different address. Please refer them to their county human services agency and speak to a County Eligibility Worker (CEW).

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

SCRs should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.

• I normally get my mail through my P.O. Box. I have my Form 1095-B but I did not get my child's Form 1095-B. How can I get my child's Form 1095-B?

DHCS will send all Form 1095-B letters to the mailing address on record. For the 2016 tax season and forward, DHCS will now mail all children Form 1095-Bs to the "Care of (C/O)" line that is associated with any parent or guardian linked to the child's case.

In the event the consumer does not receive their child's Form 1095-B, they may contact their county human services agency and speak with an eligibility worker to request a new copy.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

SCRs should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.

Updating Consumer Info

 The information on Form 1095-B does not show my correct information. How can I have Medi-Cal change or update it?
 If the consumer thinks there is a mistake on their Form 1095-B, advise them to contact their county human services agency to work with their CEW to correct any information on their account. CEWs can help change their address, name, date of birth, and months of coverage.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

SCRs should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.

SSI/SSP recipients:

If the consumer or a member of their household gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP), the consumer or the household member who gets SSI/SSP must contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in person or by phone to update your information used by Medi-Cal.

Note:

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources: Update SSA by phone: 1-800-772-1213

Update SSA in person: SSA local office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp.

How do I update my contact information to ensure I receive my Form 1095-B?

Consumers who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program may contact their county human services agency CEW to verify or update their contact information for Medi-Cal.

By connecting with their CEW, they can discuss their personal information within the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) and make changes to it as necessary. Note that their CEW may require additional personal information for identity verification.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

What changes do I need to report to make sure my information is up-todate?

Consumers must report changes to their home or mailing address and other contact information, income, household size, employment, and other health insurance coverage. These changes must be reported to the county human services agency within 10 calendar days from the date the change occurred.

Consumers that receive benefits through Social Security Administration (SSA) will be required to submit changes to their record through SSA.

Note:

 Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.

SSI/SSP recipients:

If a consumer or a member of their household gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP), the consumer or the household member who gets SSI/SSP must contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in person or by phone to update your information used by Medi-Cal.

 Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) that SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp
- How do I locate my county human services agency?

Consumers may locate their county human services agency by using the DHCS county listing web page. Agencies are listed by county and may include street addresses, telephone numbers, and webpages.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

<u>Note:</u> Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.

Coverage

How do I know if the Medi-Cal program I am or was enrolled in counts as minimum essential coverage?

Full-scope Medi-Cal coverage meets the coverage requirement for most consumers. Nearly all consumers enrolled in the Medi-Cal program have full coverage, including those in pregnancy programs. The list below provides a few examples of Medi-Cal or state funded programs that do not meet the requirement:

- Medi-Cal with a Share of Cost
- Restricted Medi-Cal, (sometimes called "emergency" Medi-Cal)
- Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (FPACT)

- Special treatment programs such as treatment for tuberculosis, dialysis, and parenteral hyper-alimentation
- State-funded full-scope coverage. This coverage is provided to immigrants
 who qualify for full scope Medi-Cal coverage but are federally eligible for
 restricted scope benefits, including immigrants who are subject to a fiveyear bar on federal full scope Medi-Cal eligibility.

For more information on Medi-Cal coverage, a consumer should contact their eligibility worker.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

<u>Note:</u> Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.

 What if I only had Medi-Cal for part of the year, will I still get Form 1095-B?

Yes, DHCS is responsible for reporting all months of Medi-Cal coverage meeting the requirement for minimum essential coverage (MEC) to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). DHCS must also provide a Form 1095-B to all consumers whose coverage was were reported to the IRS. The form will show which months the consumer had MEC.

What if I lost my IRS Tax Form 1095-B or need another copy?
 Consumers may contact an eligibility worker at their county human services agency and request a reprint.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State
 Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security
 Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that
 SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will
 have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

• What do I do regarding Form 1095-B if a member of my family has passed away?

In the event that a consumer received MEC in the given tax year, but has passed away, a Form 1095-B will be sent to the last known address on file. If the responsible person did not obtain Form 1095-B for the deceased, with the appropriate documentation, they can go to the responsible county for the deceased and request a reprint of Form 1095-B. A forwarding address may be given if the Form 1095-B needs to be sent to a different address.

Is there anything I need to know about my foster child in regards to Form 1095-B?

Yes. If the consumer is a foster parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian that claims the child as a dependent on their tax return for the given tax year, they are liable for the shared responsibility payment. Parents who cannot claim the child as a dependent are not liable for the months they were responsible for the child.

If the adoption or placement of the child occurs during the given tax year, the consumer is only liable for the month following the adoption or placement through the end of the tax year.

Foster care or adoptive parents and children fall under the same rules regarding MEC and the individual mandate. If a foster parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian has not received Form 1095-B for their child, they may request a reprint through an eligibility worker at their county human services agency.

SCRs please inform the consumer that all former foster youth, up to the age of 26, are eligible for free Medi-Cal and that former foster youth will always have minimum essential coverage.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp
- Are there any special considerations regarding Form 1095-B if I am a parent of a child who has entered foster care?

Parents who had a child or children enter foster care may have not received Form 1095-B on behalf of their child or children. Until further guidance is received from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, DHCS will not issue or provide reprints of Form 1095-B to these parents.

 What if I received Medicaid coverage for part of the year while living in another state?

California's Medicaid program is known as Medi-Cal. If the consumer received Medicaid coverage in another state, the human services agency from that state will send Form 1095-B to the most recent address on record. It is important that the consumer report their current address to their former human services agency so that they send the Form 1095-B to their current address.

Consumers can find contact information for the Medicaid agency for each state at http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-state/by-state.html.

 What if I received Qualified Health Plan (QHP) coverage while living in another state for part of the year through that state's marketplace or through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace?

If the consumer lived in another state and received QHP coverage through that state's marketplace or through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (also known as healthcare.gov), they will receive Form 1095-A from the state or federal marketplace. It is important that they report their current address to that marketplace and the health plan that covered them so they send the Form 1095-A to their current address.

- To update their contact information with the federal marketplace: https://www.healthcare.gov/reporting-changes/how-to-report-changes/
- To update their contact information with a state marketplace that does not take enrollments through healthcare.gov: https://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace-in-your-state/

Tax Questions

• What will happen if I only had health coverage for part of the year? If the consumer had health coverage for only part of the year they may have to pay a tax penalty. Please refer them to www.IRS.gov/ACA to learn more about short health coverage gaps and other reasons they may be exempt from the penalty. The IRS also provides consumers with an Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) tool that will help determine if they are eligible for a health coverage exemption.

What is a tax penalty?

Consumers may have to pay a tax penalty if they do not have qualifying health insurance (referred to as minimum essential coverage and they do not apply for and receive an exemption). If they do not have an exemption, consumers only pay 1/12th of the penalty for each month they didn't have coverage. Please note that some penalties are subject to a maximum amount.

Please refer them to www.IRS.gov/ for more details on tax penalties.

2015	2% of their yearly household Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) above the amount at which you're required to file taxes, or \$325 per person (\$162.50/child; Maximum \$975) – whichever is greater.	
2016	2.5% of their yearly household Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) above the amount at which you're required to file taxes or \$695 per person (\$347.50/child; Maximum \$2,085) – whichever is greater.	

• I did not have health coverage for a month or more during the tax year. Where can I apply for an exemption from the tax penalty? For some exemptions, such as the exemption for a short gap in health coverage, the consumer will only need to fill in a code when they file taxes. See IRS Form 8965, Health Coverage Exemptions. Other exemptions require the consumer to apply by filling out one of the exemption forms available at https://www.healthcare.gov/fees/.

• If I am enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that does not count as minimum essential coverage, do I have to pay a tax penalty?

There are many exemptions from the tax penalty. Some examples include:

- Consumers with very low income
- Consumers in limited coverage Medi-Cal programs (i.e. share of cost)
- Undocumented immigrants who do not qualify for assistance

Consumers should consult with a tax professional to see if they qualify. They can also visit the following <u>IRS webpage</u> for information about all of the exemptions.

• Where can I get help filing my taxes?

Consumers can get help from their local Taxpayer Assistance Center Office.

- Taxpayer Assistance locator website
- Taxpayer Assistance contact number: 1-800-829-1040.

Consumers can also consult their own tax professional/adviser or they can find an authorized e-file provider in their neighborhood on the <u>California Franchise Tax Board website</u>. A California Authorized Consumer e-file Provider can help them look for a tax professional near their home, work, school, or other location. This tool will give them the name and contact information for tax professionals authorized to provide them with consumer e-file services.

Consumers can also get free tax assistance at a local **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site (VITA).**

VITA services are for consumers who:

- have an annual income of \$54,000 or less;
- have disabilities;
- are elderly;
- or are limited English-speaking.
- VITA contact number: 1-800-906-9887
- VITA online locator

Note: The list of VITA offices is updated with more locations as tax season approaches. Instruct the consumer to check back in a few weeks to see if an office near the consumer has been added.

Consumers can also receive IRS Taxpayer Services.

The website offers "Help and Resources" for taxpayers who need it. The <u>IRS</u> also has a section with information about the Affordable Care Act. Help includes "Local Taxpayer Advocates" and "Low Income Taxpayer Clinics."

The IRS has a variety of electronic filing options including free volunteer assistance, IRS Free File, commercial software and professional assistance. There is more information about IRS filing and options available.

• I already filed my federal tax return with the IRS Form 1095-B that has incorrect information. Do I have to amend my federal tax return when I get the corrected IRS Form 1095-B?

Depending on how the information was changed, the consumer may need to amend their taxes. The United States Department of Treasury intends to provide additional information to help tax filers determine whether they would benefit from filing amended returns. Consumers also may want to consult with their tax preparers to determine if they would benefit from amending.

DHCS highly recommends that consumers contact their county human services agency to work with their CEW to fix the wrong information on their record.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp
- Can I report to the IRS that I got health coverage before I get my Form 1095-B from Medi-Cal?

Yes, consumers may self-attest their coverage while filing their taxes before getting Form 1095-B. Please note that the IRS may require some consumers to show proof for their coverage and due to this, DHCS strongly suggests consumers keep Form 1095-B for their records.

• What if I did not get an IRS Form 1095-B but I filed my federal income taxes anyway without the information from the form?

The IRS determined that consumers with government sponsored coverage may file their taxes without Form 1095-B and self-attest their coverage. Consumers should get an IRS Form 1095-B in the mail before January 31 following the tax year. If they do not receive a Form 1095-B by the end of January and they would like Form 1095-B for their records, instruct them to contact their CEW at their county human services agency to request a reprint.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website -https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

Form 1095-B is not required to file taxes. However, please note that the IRS may require some consumers to show proof for their coverage and due to this, DHCS strongly suggests consumers keep Form 1095-B for their records.

- If I do not regularly file taxes, is there a benefit to filing taxes this year?

 Even if consumers are not required to file taxes, consumers may have federal or state tax credits available to them for low to moderate income level households. One of these incentives is called the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and is now available for both federal and California state taxes.
 - Click here for the federal EITC
 - Click here for the new California EITC

Also, if someone in the consumer's household receives a premium tax credits through Covered California (or through healthcare.gov or another state marketplace if they lived outside of California for any part of the tax year) they are required to file taxes.

When someone receives a premium tax credit and does not file taxes, Covered California will not continue to provide financial assistance in paying for their coverage.

If the consumer has questions regarding their premium tax credit or information on Form 1095-A, please direct them to Covered California.

- www.coveredca.com
- Covered California: 1-800-300-1506

 Is there a penalty for having both a Form 1095-A from Covered California, and a Form 1095-B from Medi-Cal showing coverage for the same months during the tax year?

The IRS rules regarding the Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) state that a consumer who qualifies for minimum essential coverage is not eligible to also receive APTCs through Covered California. This means that if the consumer is found eligible for Medi-Cal and decides to continue to receive APTCs to use towards their Covered California plan, they may have to pay back some or all of those APTCs to the IRS. Please note that if the consumer was covered by both Covered California and Medi-Cal in 2015, the IRS will not penalize the consumer for overlapping health coverage for the 2015 tax year.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following IRS resources:

• Facts about the Premium Tax Credit: https://www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/individuals-and-families/the-premium-tax-credit

Return Preparer Best Practices: https://www.irs.gov/PUP/taxpros/best-_practices_resolving_1095_conflicts.pdf?_ga=1.265554831.1023200377.1426703 426

• I claim an adult dependent on my taxes. How can I get their Form 1095-B for tax filing purposes?

If the responsible filer claims an adult as a dependent on their taxes and they are responsible for reporting the adult dependent's health coverage, the responsible filer may need access to the adult dependent's Form 1095-B. If they do, the adult tax dependent may provide the responsible consumer with their Form 1095-B by either providing them their form directly or by requesting to have their form sent directly to their filer. In order to submit a request, the adult dependent will have to contact their county human services agency and speak with a eligibility worker. It is important that that the consumer keep this form for their record as it contains proof of health coverage for the tax year. However, they are not required to submit a copy of the Form 1095-B with their taxes.

Dispute Form 1095-B

• I did not get Form 1095-B. How can I get a new form?

There may be one of two reasons why the consumer did not get a Form 1095-B:

- The mailing address we have on record may be incorrect
- The consumer was enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that did not meet the requirement for Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC).

Advise the consumer contact to their county human services agency to work with their county eligibility worker to either update their mailing address or to learn more about the coverage they are receiving.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

Note:

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State
 Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security
 Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that
 SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will
 have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

Notice for Requested Action

 I received a Notice for Requested Action in the mail. What is this notice and what does it mean for me?

The Notice for Requested Action is a letter that the Department of Health Care Services sends to consumers whose record contains inconsistent information that prevents their record from being accepted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) reports to the IRS when consumers have Medi-Cal and should not be penalized for being uninsured.

The known types of causes preventing your information from being accepted are:

- Social Security Number (SSN) does not match with your name
- Tax Identification Number (TIN) does not match with your name
- First/Last Name is incorrect

Important

Failure to respond or update your record may result in a tax penalty for not reporting your health coverage and may potentially affect your Medi-Cal benefits.

NOTE:

- Please inform the beneficiary that the information we have on record is incorrect and the IRS is unable to pair their SSN or TIN with their name. They will have contact Medi-Cal to provide corrections in order to have their record sent to the IRS.
- If you get your Medi-Cal or CalWORKs through your county, you will need to go to your local county human services agency to update your record.

 If you get your Medi-Cal through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Payment (SSP), you will need to go to your local Social Security Administration district office to update any personal information on your Medi-Cal record.

County Offices: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL

- Call representatives should access the County Office Listing resource and offer to provide the consumer the contact information directly in addition to the URL.
- Inform consumers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) in order to update their personal information and that SSA will not be able to provide a reprint of Form 1095-B. The consumer will have the option to request a reprint at their county human services agency.

SCRs can refer the consumer to the following SSA contact resources:

- SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.
- SSA local county office locator website https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

SCRs shall remind consumers that Xerox Call Center staff are not able to update consumer records and they must contact their county office or SSA in order to do so.



Medicaid Health Insurance Statement Frequently Asked Questions

December 30, 2015

Form 1095-B Basics

1. What is the Form 1095-B?

Form 1095-B is an IRS document that shows you had health coverage considered Minimum Essential Coverage during the last tax year. As part of the Affordable Care Act the IRS requires most people to get health coverage that meets this requirement for the given tax year. This is called the "individual mandate." People who do not have health coverage that meets the requirement may have to pay a tax penalty for being "uninsured." If you are required to file taxes, you or your tax preparer will use the information on Form 1095-B as proof of health coverage for the tax year.

2. What information will be included on Form 1095-B?

The Form 1095-B will include the insured person's:

- Name
- Address
- Social Security number (or date of birth, if not available)
- Months of Medi-Cal that meets Minimum Essential Coverage requirements

3. Are there any other types of 1095 IRS tax forms?

Yes. There are other IRS tax forms that are similar to Form 1095-B and you might get more than one type if you had other health coverage:

- Form 1095-A If a household member gets or had health coverage through Covered California.
- Form 1095-B If a household member gets or had health coverage through a government sponsor, like Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Medicare, or Veterans benefits. Households may receive more than one Form 1095-B for each type of coverage.
- Form 1095-C If a household member was offered health insurance through a large employer.

Who Gets a Form 1095-B

4. Who in my household will receive Form 1095-B?

Each person who is or was enrolled in Medi-Cal that met the coverage requirement, at any time during 2015, will get his or her own Form 1095-B. Therefore, a household with more than one person covered by Medi-Cal may get a Form 1095-B for each person that had coverage.

Also, anyone in the household who was covered by Medicare and Medi-Cal will get a Form 1095-B for each type of coverage they had.

5. Will there be people in my household who have Medi-Cal but will *not* get Form 1095-B?

People who are enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that is not considered "minimum essential coverage," such as restricted scope Medi-Cal benefits (also known as "emergency Medi-Cal"), Medi-Cal with a Share of Cost, or certain limited coverage



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programs, will not get a Form 1095-B.

6. How do I know if the Medi-Cal coverage I am getting or that I had counts as minimum essential coverage?

Full-scope Medi-Cal coverage meets the coverage requirement. Nearly all people enrolled in the Medi-Cal program have full coverage, including those in pregnancy programs. The list below provides a few examples of Medi-Cal or state funded programs that do *not* meet the requirement:

- Medi-Cal with a Share of Cost
- Restricted Medi-Cal, covering only emergency services (sometimes called "emergency" Medi-Cal)
- Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (FPACT)
- Special Treatment Programs such as treatment for Tuberculosis, Dialysis, and Parenteral Hyper-alimentation

For more information on your Medi-Cal coverage, contact your eligibility worker.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.

7. If I am required to have a Form 1095-B, how will I get it?

Form 1095-B will be mailed to you by January 31, 2016. A cover letter explaining the purpose of the form will be included.

- 8. What if I only had Medi-Cal for part of the year, will I still get Form 1095-B? Yes, your form will show which months you had Medi-Cal. DHCS will report to the IRS all months of Medi-Cal coverage meeting the coverage requirements and will provide you with Form 1095-B for tax purposes.
- 9. What will happen if I had Medi-Cal for part of the year and then I purchased a Covered California health insurance plan?

You will get a Form 1095-B from Medi-Cal that will provide proof of insurance for the months you were covered by Medi-Cal and you will get a Form 1095-A from Covered California that will provide proof of insurance for the months of coverage they provided you.

10. Some people in my home have Covered California and others have Medi-Cal, will the IRS Form 1095-B show my household members who are not enrolled in the Medi-Cal program?

No. Medi-Cal will report each person's months of coverage to the IRS separately and will send that person their own Form 1095-B. You will receive multiple Form 1095-Bs for each person in their family enrolled in Medi-Cal. If your family has a member enrolled in Covered California, they should expect to receive Form 1095-A from Covered California providing proof of their coverage from them.

11. I'm a non-citizen but lawfully present in the United States and enrolled in Medi-Cal, will I still get an IRS Form 1095-B?

Yes, lawfully present people (non-citizens) who are enrolled in health care coverage through Medi-Cal will get an IRS Form 1095-B.

For additional information about IRS MEC Reporting or Form 1095-B Returns, please visit DHCS's webpage on Form 1095-B at http://dhcs.ca.gov/1095



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Making Sure Your 1095-B Is Correct

12. How do I update my information to ensure I receive my Form 1095-B? It is very important that we have your correct and current information on file. Contact your county eligibility worker to verify or update your contact information for Medi-Cal.

By connecting with your county eligibility worker, you can check the information on file and make changes if necessary. Note that your eligibility worker may require additional personal information for identity verification to protect your privacy.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.

If you or a member of your household gets Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) benefits, then you should contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to update your contact information.

SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.

To find an office near you please go to the SSA local county office locator website at https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp.

13. What changes do I need to report to make sure my information is up-to-date? You must report changes to home or mailing address and other contact information, income, household size, employment, and other health insurance coverage must be reported to the county human services agency within 10 calendar days from the date the change occurred.

14. How do I locate my county human services agency?

You may locate your county human services agency by using the DHCS County listing web resource. Agencies are listed by county and may include street addresses, telephone numbers, and webpages.

What to Do With Your Form 1095-B

15. What do I need to do with my Form 1095-B?

When you get your Form 1095-B, please keep it with your other tax-related documents. Just like a W-2 or 1099 form, you will need to have it on hand if you prepare your own taxes, or you'll need to give it to the tax professional that will help prepare and file your taxes.

16. Why does Medi-Cal/DHCS send Form 1095-B to the IRS too?

Medi-Cal sends Form 1095-B to the IRS to validate months of health insurance reported by the person filing their taxes and to prevent a tax penalty.

17. Why did I get more than one Form 1095-B from Medi-Cal and what should I do with all of them?



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Medi-Cal will mail a Form 1095-B for every person with health insurance that meets minimum essential coverage during the tax year 2015. Use each form to provide proof for all tax dependents and your spouse if filing jointly.

What If You Have Problems with Form 1095-B

18. If I need additional help with Form 1095-B, who can I contact?

If you need additional support, please call the Medi-Cal 1095-B Helpdesk at 1-844-357-0883 (for TTY, call 1-844-357-5709) for live support. Our helpdesk service can provide assistance in most languages. This is a free service

19. The information on IRS Form 1095-B does not have my correct information, how can I have Medi-Cal change or update it?

If you think there is a mistake on your Form 1095-B, contact your county human services agency to work with your county eligibility worker to fix any account information mistakes.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.

20. I did not get Form 1095-B, how can I get a new form?

The mailing address we have on record may be incorrect. Please contact your county human services agency to work with your county eligibility worker to update your mailing address.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.

To issue a new Form 1095-B, please ask your county eligibility worker to issue a new form that will be sent via postal mail.

If you or a member of your household gets Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) benefits, then you should contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to update your contact information.

SSA toll-free contact number: 1-800-772-1213.

To find an office near you please go to the SSA local county office locator website at https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.isp.

21. How do I get another copy of my Form 1095-B?

Please contact your county human services agency to work with your county eligibility worker. They will be able to reissue a new Form 1095-B to be sent to your home via postal mail.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.



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22. What if I received Medicaid coverage for part of the year while living in another state?

California's Medicaid program is known as Medi-Cal. If you received Medicaid coverage in another state, the human services agency from that state will send Form 1095-B to your most recent address on record. It is important that you report your current address to the human services agency so that they send the Form 1095-B to your current address.

You can find contact information for the Medicaid agency for each state at http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-state/by-state.html.

23. What if I received Qualified Health Plan (QHP) coverage while living in another state for part of the year through that state's marketplace or through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace?

If you lived in another state and received QHP coverage through that state's marketplace or through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (also known as healthcare.gov), you will receive a 1095-A from the state or federal marketplace. It is important that you report your current address to that marketplace and the health plan that covered you so they send the Form 1095-A to your current address.

- Go to <u>www.healthcare.gov</u> to update your contact information with the federal marketplace.
- Go to state marketplace to update your contact information with a state marketplace that does not take enrollments through healthcare.gov at https://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace-in-your-state/.

Individual Mandate and Tax Penalty

24. What will happen if I only had health coverage for part of the year?

If you had health coverage for only part of the year you may get a tax penalty if you don't meet one of the exceptions. Please refer to www.IRS.gov/ACA for more details on the individual mandate for health insurance and rules that apply to gaps in coverage, including information about getting an exemption from the penalty.

25. What is a tax penalty?

You may have to pay a tax penalty if you do not have qualifying health care insurance (referred to as Minimum Essential Coverage and you do not apply for and receive an exemption. See question #1 to learn more about what minimum essential coverage is?

If you do not have an exemption, you only pay 1/12th of the penalty for each month you don't have coverage. Please note that some penalties are subject to a maximum amount.

2015	2% of your yearly household Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) above the amount at which you're required to file taxes, or \$325 per person (\$162.50/child) – whichever is greater.
2016	2.5% of your yearly household Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) above the amount at which you're required to file taxes or \$695 per person (\$347.50/child) – whichever is greater.



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26. I did not have health coverage for a month or more in 2015. Where can I apply for an exemption from the tax penalty?

For some exemptions, such as the exemption for a short gap in health coverage, you will only need to fill in a code when you file taxes. See IRS Form 8965, Health Coverage Exemptions. Other exemptions require you to apply by filling out one of the exemption forms available at www.healthcare.gov.

IRS Exemptions: https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/

27. If I am enrolled in a Medi-Cal program that does not count as full health coverage, do I have to pay a tax penalty?

There are many exemptions from the tax penalty. Some examples include: exemptions for people with very low income, exemptions for people in limited Medi-Cal programs such as share of cost, exemptions for undocumented immigrants who do not qualify for assistance, and more. You should consult with a tax professional to see if you qualify. You can also visit the following IRS webpage for information about all of the exemptions.

IRS Exemptions: https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/

Tax Filing Help

28. Where can I get help filing my taxes?

You can get help from your local Taxpayer Assistance Center Office. To find an office near you, visit the locator website or call 1-800-829-1040.

Taxpayer Assistance locator: https://apps.irs.gov/app/officeLocator/index.jsp

You can consult your own tax professional/adviser. Or, you can find an authorized e-file provider in your neighborhood on the **California Franchise Tax Board** website. A California Authorized Individual e-file Provider can help you look for a tax professional near your home, work, school, or other location. This tool will give you the name and contact information for tax professionals authorized to provide you with individual e-file services.

Franchise Tax Board: https://www.ftb.ca.gov/online/ero/index.asp

You can also get free tax assistance at a local **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site (VITA)** for people **who generally has an annual income of \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English** speaking taxpayers. To help find the nearest office, you can call 1-800-906-9887 or go to http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/.

Please note that the list of VITA offices is updated with more locations as tax season approaches. Check back in a few weeks to see if an office near you has been added.

Or, you can get help directly from the IRS website. The website offers "Help and Resources" for taxpayers who need it. The IRS also has a section with information about the Affordable Care Act. Help includes "Local Taxpayer Advocates" and "Low Income Taxpayer Clinics." You or your tax professional should consider preparing and filing your



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tax return electronically. Using tax preparation software is the easiest way to file a complete and accurate tax return. The IRS has a variety of electronic filing options including free volunteer assistance, IRS Free File, commercial software and professional assistance. There is more information about IRS filing and options are available.

IRS Affordable Care Act Tax Provisions: https://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act IRS Filing: https://www.irs.gov/Filing

29. I already filed my federal tax return with the IRS Form 1095-B that has incorrect information, do I have to amend my federal tax return when I get the corrected IRS Form 1095-B?

The corrected Form 1095-B indicates that Medi-Cal has updated your correct information to the IRS. Depending on how your information was changed you may need to amend your taxes. The United States Department of the Treasury intends to provide additional information to help tax filers determine whether they would benefit from filing amended returns. Consumers also may want to consult with their tax preparers to determine if they would benefit from amending. See question #33 for more information.

We highly recommend that you do not use an incorrect Form 1095-B to file your taxes if you believe the information is wrong and must be fixed. Please contact your county human services agency to work with your county eligibility worker. They will be able to work with you to resolve any issues with your account and reissue a new Form 1095-B to be sent to your home via mail.

If you choose not to amend, the IRS may contact them following its normal procedures in cases where additional tax is due. The IRS does not expect this situation to be common.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.

30. Can I report to the IRS that I got health coverage before I get my Form 1095-B from Medi-Cal?

Yes, you may file your taxes before getting your Form 1095-B, you may also be required to show your Form 1095-B as proof for your coverage to the IRS. Please save your Form 1095-B for your records.

31. What if I never got an IRS Form 1095-B but I filed my federal income taxes anyway without the information from the form?

Consumers should get an IRS Form 1095-B in the mail by or around January 31. If you do not receive a Form 1095-B by early February, contact your eligibility worker at your county human services agency to request one.

Although Form 1095-B is not required to file your taxes, it is used to show proof of your minimum essential coverage. Please keep your Form 1095-B for your records. The IRS may require you to show proof of your coverage and will ask that you send them a copy or may require you to amend your taxes.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.



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32. If I do not regularly file taxes, is there a benefit to filing taxes this year?

Even if you are not required to file taxes, you may have federal or state tax credits available for low to moderate income level people. One of these incentives is called the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and is now available for both federal and California state taxes. Follow the links below to see if you qualify for these credits.

Federal: https://www.irs.gov/Credits-&-Deductions/Individuals/Earned-Income-Tax-Credit State: https://www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/fag/net/900.shtml

Also, if you or someone in your household qualifies for premium tax credits through Covered California (or through healthcare.gov or another state marketplace if you lived outside of California for any part of the tax year) you are required to file taxes.

When someone receives a premium tax credit and does not file taxes, Covered California will not continue to provide financial assistance in paying for their coverage.

33. What do I do if a member of my family has passed away in regards to Form 1095-

In the event that a family member or a person you are responsible for has passed away, and that person received MEC, an IRS Tax Form 1095-B will still be sent to the last known address on file. If you did not obtain Form 1095-B for the deceased, with the appropriate documentation, you may go to the responsible county for the deceased and request a reprint for Form 1095-B. A forwarding address may be given, if the Form 1095-B needs to be sent to a different address.

34. Are there any special considerations for my foster child in regards to Form 1095-

Children enrolled in foster care fall under the same rules regarding MEC and the individual mandate. If you are a foster parent or a legal guardian of a foster child and you have not received Form 1095-B for your foster child, you may request a reprint through an eligibility worker at your county human services agency. A forwarding address may be given, if the Form 1095-B needs to be sent to a different address.

To find an office near you please go to the county human services agency listing at: http://dhcs.ca.gov/COL.

35. Are there any special considerations regarding Form 1095-B if I am a parent of a child who has entered foster care?

Parents who had their child or children enter foster care may have not received Form 1095-B on behalf of their child or children. Until further guidance is received from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, DHCS will not issue or provide reprints of Form 1095 B to these parents.