



Northeast Delta Dental

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**Community Health Options & Northeast Delta Dental Announce New Initiative That Recognizes the Key Link Between Oral Health and Overall Health in Maine**

**LEWISTON, ME** – Community Health Options and Northeast Delta Dental announced an expansion of their work together to improve oral and overall health in Maine. The state’s only Maine-based, nonprofit health plan and Northern New England’s leading Dental Carrier will partner to offer dental coverage within its large group plans for 2019.

In addition, the new initiative will give members access to Northeast Delta Dental’s patient-centered oral health program, Health through Oral Wellness® (HOW®). The program empowers patients to take control of their oral health. Based on the need of care and oral health disease risk, the HOW® program provides enhanced preventive benefits including fluoride varnishes and sealants for adults, tobacco cessation counseling, nutrition counseling, and additional dental cleanings.

“We are pleased to work with Northeast Delta Dental to improve overall health and oral health coverage in Maine,” said Kevin Lewis, Community Health Options’ CEO. “Since 2015, we have partnered with Northeast Delta Dental to provide pediatric dental coverage within our health plans. It’s a natural extension for us to broaden coverage to adults on large group plans through this expanded partnership with Northeast Delta Dental.”

Employers will be offered a reduced premium when they purchase medical benefits from Community Health Options and dental coverage from Northeast Delta Dental. “Our Members will see real benefits from this new partnership, not only in overall improved health, but with premium savings,” said Lewis.

The new dental benefit will be administered by Northeast Delta Dental and businesses will be able to choose the dental plan that best meets their employees’ needs. Large group plans beginning on January 1, 2019 will be eligible for this new partnership.

“As the region’s most trusted name in dental benefits, Northeast Delta Dental has a longstanding tradition of improving access to oral health,” said Jodie Hittle, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Northeast Delta Dental. “As oral health experts, we are proud to partner with Community Health Options and leverage our joint expertise to benefit the oral and overall health of Maine residents.”

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***About Community Health Options*** - Community Health Options (Health Options) is a non-profit, Member-led health plan providing comprehensive, Member-focused health insurance benefits for individuals, families, and businesses. Community Health Options is licensed in Maine and New Hampshire. For more information about Health Options, visit the website: [HealthOptions.org](http://HealthOptions.org).

***About Northeast Delta Dental*** - Northeast Delta Dental administers dental benefits for more than 876,200 people in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, offering dental insurance programs for companies of all sizes, and individuals and families with no access to employer-sponsored dental benefits. The Northeast Delta Dental Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations that offer programs and services to improve oral health and access to dental care. Learn more at [nedelta.com](http://nedelta.com).