

Metro Teamster

No. 7 *All the news not fit for polite company*



2022 Insurance Changes: New Lowest Plan

Open enrollment has just started for City of Madison employees. Right now is when you can opt into insurance plans, change your providers, etc.

Metro Teamsters have in our contract that the City will pay 100% of the cost of the **lowest cost provider** in the ETF plan for public employees. If you take another plan, you pay the difference. (We are the only people in the City with this!)

For years, Quartz has been the \$0 plan — which meant that most people select Quartz for their insurance because then you're not paying for the premiums.

For 2022 THAT HAS CHANGED!!

The lowest bidder to the ETF plan this coming year is Group Health Cooperative (GHC).

If you stick with Quartz, you will have to

pay a monthly premium of \$40.32 (single) or \$100.80 (family).

If your #1 is that the health insurance is free, you will have to change your coverage. If you're on Quartz and you like it, you don't have to do anything but starting 2022 you will be charged premiums each month.

READ THE PLAN INFO. GHC is different from Quartz! GHC does a lot in-house at

its own clinics, so if you switch they might not cover your chiropractor, personal doctor, therapist, etc. From the GHC website: "GHC-SCW will be adding 13 new UW Health and 7 new UnityPoint Health - Meriter clinics to our HMO primary care provider network, making us the largest Primary Care network in Dane County!"

A lot of people have local clinics or whatever they go to, so make sure its still covered. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK.**

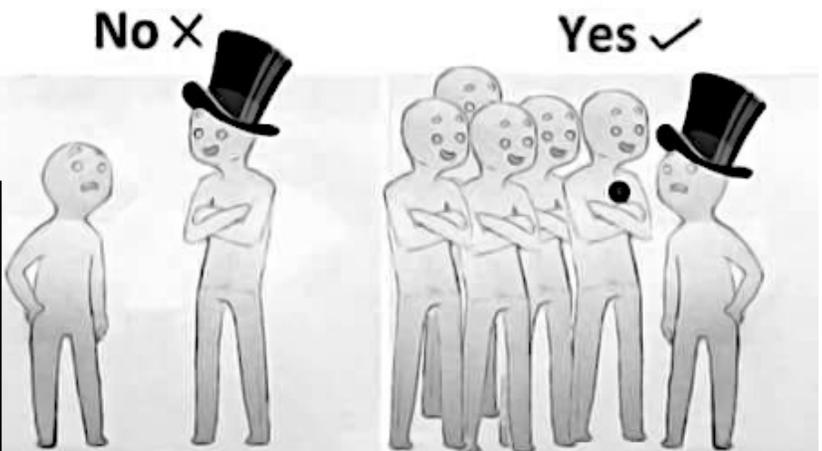
	Single	Family
	669.36	1,638.08
<i>100% of Low</i>	Employee Single	Employee Family
DEAN	\$111.68	\$279.20
GHC	\$0.00	\$0.00
QUARTZ CENTRAL	\$328.96	\$822.40
QUARTZ - UW HEALTH	\$40.32	\$100.80
QUARTZ WEST	\$169.58	\$423.96
MERCYCARE	\$18.82	\$47.06

INSURANCE QUICK INFO

- **DEDUCTIBLES:** \$500 single/\$1,000 fam (Looks like no change here)
Prescriptions do not count toward your deductible
- Our plan is "Local Deductible" PO14
- Phone Numbers for Providers:
GHC: 608-828-4853
Quartz: 1-844-644-3455
Dean: 1-800-279-1301



How to talk to the boss:



DELTA VARIANT IS NO JOKE

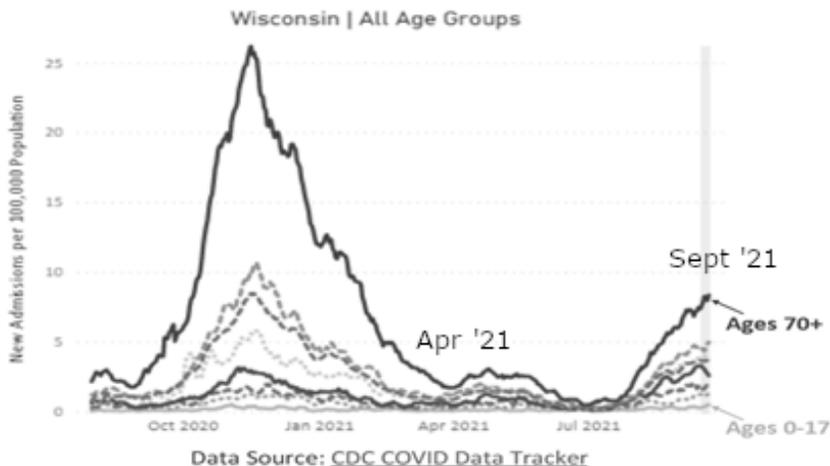
Everyone's tired of Covid, but its not over yet. Infection rates dropped in the spring to a low spot in July, but they've picked up again. The Covid "Delta Variant" is even more infectious version of the Covid we know and hate.

The Dane County Public Health information says that the two age groups that are spreading the fastest are 18-24 and 70+. No surprise that the numbers shot up soon as school was

back in session. The 18-24 numbers are especially bad with kids crammed together at UW.

Delta can still be contracted by people who've had the vaccine, but the hospitalization rate is much smaller than people who haven't been vax'd.

Be safe! Especially around campus! The virus spreads by droplets when you talk or sneeze, so make sure you have a mask over your mouth and nose. Chin diapers don't help.



State Legislature Cuts \$8 million from Metro Transit Budget. Evers gives \$5 million patch

The Wisconsin State Legislature cut funding for public transit by 50% over the next two years. The cuts pull \$8 million from Madison Metro Transit. Governor Evers gave a \$5.2 million grant to make up for some of the loss of funds, but that leaves a \$3 million LOSS in what Metro would have gotten from the State.

Why does that matter to us? Metro is a public service that depends on funding from the City, federal government, and

the state of Wisconsin. Fares make up a small portion of the operating money, and the pandemic has cut that down with fewer riders.

The funding issues are going to affect the service Metro provides, and it puts pressure on the City that they then pass on to us. If the City's cash strapped, the first place they're going to plead poverty is wages and benefits for the workers here.



Metro Briefs

Metro Retirees

- Fred Haltvick (part-timer)
- Steve Callaway

New People Started Recently

Metro is desperate for drivers. Every place is trying to hire, but they're especially hurting for bus drivers.

DRIVERS: Hochi, Kim, Michael, Caleb, Patrick, Sasha, Marc, David

SHOP: All three of the newest people are gone already

Management Blotter

Shop: Justin Maki hired as the new Safety guy.

Ops: Jen Wiegert hired as General Operations Supervisor.

Planning: New planning manager, Sean Hedgpeth. Replaced Drew.

TEAMSTER UPDATES

- Wayne Schultz retired. Schultz was the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 695. Larry Whedan has filled Schultz's position, making him the new #1 guy in 695.
- The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) election for top offices, the big Teamsters that represent everyone in the union across the country, starts in October. Jimmy Hoffa retired. Ballots will be mailed to all members to vote for General President and the Executive Board. (*This isn't our local officers, that's next year.*)