

# Washington State Family to Family Health Information Center



Newsletter #9 – November 2021

## Open Enrollment Starts Now

As of November 1st, open enrollment for Medicaid programs and private health insurance has started. In order to have health coverage start at the beginning of 2022, enrollment must be completed by December 15th. For those unsure as to what they are qualified for, KFF has an updated [Health Insurance Marketplace Calculator](#). The [Washington Healthplanfinder](#) is the place to start when shopping for subsidized state and private health insurance.

## November 2021 Calendar

*All events are free and on-line*

[The Accessibility of Motherhood: Disability and Pregnancy](#) – November 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

[Una Serie Especial de Radio en Espanol de Kindering](#) – November 2<sup>nd</sup>

[Maintaining Relationships While Parenting a Child with Special Needs](#) – November 2<sup>nd</sup>

[Strengthen Your Relationship with Your Child Through Attentive Play](#) – November 3<sup>rd</sup>

[Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Family Town Hall](#) – November 8<sup>th</sup>

[My Teen Won't Talk With Me!](#) – November 9<sup>th</sup>

[Emergency Preparedness for Maternal and Child Health](#) – November 10<sup>th</sup>

[Pediatric Complex Care: Feeding Intolerance](#) – November 11<sup>th</sup>

[Sharing Down Syndrome in Pierce County: Parents Night In](#) – November 12<sup>th</sup>

[Creating Connections: How to Renew Guardianship](#) – November 14<sup>th</sup>

[Implications of Long COVID for Patients & the Health Care System](#) – November 17<sup>th</sup>

[STOMP Brunch and Learn "Need to Know" Webinar Series for Military Families](#)  
November 19<sup>th</sup>

[SSI and How your Retirement/Passing May Affect Your Loved One's Benefits](#)  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Editorial: Getting a COVID Vaccination for a Child with a Disability

Getting a needle stuck in one's arm can make anyone feel anxious, let alone for children and young adults who have disabilities and special health care needs. My adult son has had many needles stuck in his arms throughout the years, so I wasn't too concerned about his reaction to the COVID vaccination. I knew if we talked about it beforehand, and if I bought him his favorite egg bites afterwards at a popular coffee shop, he would be fine. He got his vaccination in a popular supermarket chain. I could tell he was one of many that day to receive the vaccination by the on-duty pharmacist. Even after his name was called, it wasn't until she was done preparing the needle that the pharmacist looked up at all three of us – my son, myself, and my son's service dog. She stopped immediately when she saw the dog and said, "No one is to cross this line." I had an inkling she thought it was just another "fake" service dog. When I took out his License and Certified Documents, she then realized he was a legitimate service dog and apologized for her abrupt behavior, while saying something under her breath about all the people trying to bring in their dogs. Then, instead of talking to my son first, she looked at me and said that he needed to keep his head still so he wouldn't move while the vaccine was being administered. My son looked at her and said, "I will keep still, I just wanted to watch you do it." The pharmacist had automatically assumed that a person who has disabilities couldn't understand anything, which is not true. If you are a parent or caregiver of someone who will be receiving the vaccine soon, it will most likely be just fine – it's the people giving the shot that may need to be reassured and educated.