



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**April 24, 2007**

## **FAMIS LAUNCHES NEW ‘STAYING HEALTHY’ SECTION OF THE WEBSITE**

(RICHMOND, VA)—Today, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services unveiled a new *Staying Healthy* addition to the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) website, [www.famis.org](http://www.famis.org), aimed at providing valuable information for families enrolled in the FAMIS programs or for anyone visiting the website.

The *Staying Healthy* section is comprised of seven new pages of information specifically tailored to meet the needs of expectant mothers and parents of children from birth through age twenty-one. The introductory *Staying Healthy* web page has six clearly defined links that lead to the following pages: Prenatal Care, Infant & Toddler, Preschooler, “Big Kids,” Preteens & Teens, and Dental Care. Pages contain information on well-child checkups, immunizations, safety, nutrition, development, parenting, special health care needs, dental care, and more. *Staying Healthy* also contains five newly-designed well-child checkup schedules and two newly-designed book lists for parents to read to their children about “Staying Healthy” and “Healthy Smiles.” There are downloadable calendars about FAMIS and “Baby’s First Year” and special month-by-month booklets on caring for your baby during the first year. The *Staying Healthy* pages also contain more than 200 health-related links and resources for parents and parents-to-be.

(more)

The launch of the new *Staying Healthy* web pages coincides with *Cover The Uninsured Week 2007*, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that seeks to highlight the plight of the uninsured in the United States. This year, *Cover The Uninsured Week*, which runs from April 23-29, promotes the importance of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which Congress must reauthorize this year.

Covering the uninsured is a national problem, but it's a local problem, too. Here in Virginia, we are working to find solutions and to help educate Virginians about the options available to them. The Commonwealth of Virginia offers traditional medical assistance programs that cover pregnant women and children such as Medicaid and FAMIS Plus (children's Medicaid), as well as SCHIP programs such as FAMIS MOMS and FAMIS that cover pregnant women and children who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private health insurance.

"The new *Staying Healthy* web pages are a nice compliment to the prenatal, well-child and preventative services already offered by the FAMIS programs. It is important for families to know that FAMIS and FAMIS Plus not only cover the medical care children need if they get sick or hurt, but also the well-child preventive care children need to keep them healthy," said Linda Nablo, Director of Maternal and Child Health at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. "FAMIS MOMS also provides prenatal care to help promote healthy birth outcomes."

Nablo continued, "We are looking forward to Congress reauthorizing the SCHIP program with adequate funding so that we can continue to provide these vital services all the currently enrolled children and pregnant women and reach those remaining uninsured Virginians in the future."

To view the new *Staying Healthy* section of the FAMIS website or for more information about the FAMIS programs or *Cover The Uninsured Week*, go to [www.famis.org](http://www.famis.org).