

Mount Vernon Community School District

**Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998
Important Notice**

On October 21, 1998, a federal law entitled the "Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act" became effective. It requires group health plans sponsored by public and private employers to provide coverage for certain reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy.

The law also requires that we provide you this notice explaining the required benefits.

The specific requirements of the law are that a plan which provides medical and surgical benefits for mastectomies must cover the following benefits for a member who undergoes a medically necessary mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction after surgery:

- *reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- *surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to achieve a symmetrical appearance, and
- *prostheses and treatment of physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

This coverage will be provided as determined by the attending physician in consultation with the patient, and will be provided in a manner consistent with that applicable to other benefits (e.g., same annual deductibles and cost-sharing provisions that apply for other benefits).

If you have any questions about this plan's coverage of mastectomies and reconstructive surgery, please call the school district's health plan provider at Mercer Benefit Link Line at 1.800.252.2122.