

COVID-19

As of April 6, 2020

Federal Benefits Available at a Glance

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits provide up to 15 weeks of income replacement and is available to eligible claimants who are unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine. If you are quarantined you can apply for (EI) sickness benefits.

HOW TO APPLY? VISIT THE EI WEBSITE

www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

Provides \$2,000/month for up to 4 months to workers without paid sick leave or the equivalent, who are unable to work, sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children.

HOW TO APPLY

CALL: the automated CERB application phone service 1-800-959-2019.

ONLINE: <https://bit.ly/2x8iwAW>

You will need a CRA My Account. Go to the COVID-19: Canada Emergency Response Benefit information page to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria. Sign in to your CRA My Account

- Go to the COVID-19: Canada Emergency Response Benefit in the alert banner at the top of the web page
- Select the period you want to apply for
- Declare that you qualify for the benefit
- Confirm the government has the right payment info

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SICKNESS BENEFITS WAITING PERIOD WAIVED



The one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits will be waived for new claimants who are quarantined and will not have to provide a medical certificate. A new toll-free phone number to support inquiries related to waiving the EI sickness benefits waiting period will be launched soon.

People who cannot complete their claim for EI sickness benefits due to quarantine may apply later and have their EI claim backdated to cover the period of delay.

If you have already completed the application for EI sickness benefits whether you are sick or quarantined and would like to have the one-week waiting period waived, call 1-833-381-2725 (toll-free).



GST REBATE INCREASE

Provides Canadians with low or modest income a one-time special payment in April of up to \$400 for single people and \$600 for couples. **You don't have to apply for this, it will be based on your tax return amount.**

If you are experiencing symptoms such as cough, fever, difficulty breathing or you are in self-isolation or quarantine, Call 1-800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)

FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEFERRALS

For individuals, the deadline to file taxes is now June 1, 2020. But this is only an advantage if you expect the owe taxes — do not delay if you expect a refund! If you do owe taxes after this later filing date, you will now have until August 31 to make the payment.



CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

Eligible recipients will receive \$300 more per child with their regular May CCB payment. If you have previously applied for the CCB, you do not need to re-apply.

For more information on the Canada Child Benefit such as how to apply and eligibility requirements, go to Canada child benefit or call 1-800-387-1193.



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Provincial Benefits Available
at a Glance
SASKATCHEWAN

JOB PROTECTED LEAVE

Amendments to The Saskatchewan Employment Act include:

- Employees can access unpaid public health emergency leave;
- Removal of the requirement of 13 consecutive weeks of employment with an employer prior to accessing sick leave; and
- Removal of the provision requiring a doctor's note or certificate



RENTAL CONDITIONS

Effective immediately, rents will not increase while the state of public health emergency remains in effect. Saskatchewan has suspended evictions while the state of Emergency is in effect.



STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT MORATORIUM

Effective immediately, a six-month student loan repayment moratorium has been put in place, mirroring a similar federal provision. This provides individuals with student loans immediate relief.

SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Self-Isolation Support Program is targeted at Saskatchewan workers forced to self-isolate in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, and who are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports. Administered by the Ministry of Finance, the program will provide \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900.

To be eligible, residents of Saskatchewan must meet these criteria:

- They have contracted COVID-19 or are showing symptoms
- They have been in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19; or
- They have recently returned from international travel and have been required to self-isolate; and
- They are not eligible for compensation including sick leave, vacation leave from their employer;
- They do not have private insurance covering such disruptions;
- They are not covered by other programs such as federal employment insurance that has been updated

Apply by phone toll free at 1-800-667-6102 or by calling 306-787-3903 from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.
Online: <https://bit.ly/2JKBobP>

SOCIAL DISTANCE
BY STAYING AT LEAST 2 METRES (6FT)
AWAY FROM ANOTHER PERSON

The Employment Standard Regulations have been amended to:

Ensure that during a public emergency, businesses will not have to provide notice or pay in lieu of notice when they lay-off staff if it is for a period of 12 weeks or less in a 16-week period.

If an employer lays off employees periodically for a total of more than 12 weeks in a 16-week period, the employees are considered to be terminated and are entitled to pay instead of notice as outlined in the Act. This will be calculated from the date on which the employee was laid off.

HOW TO APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

TO APPLY

Go to The Employment Insurance Benefits and Leave Government of Canada Service website

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>



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