

The benefits of being with People

Important news and updates for plan members

Coronavirus disease COVID-19 outbreak - update #3

We continue to monitor development of the Coronavirus disease outbreak. Since our last update we've seen the following changes:

On March 18, Prime Minister Trudeau announced additional measures in efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 including:

- Stronger border restrictions have been implemented - Non-essential cross border travel between Canada and the U.S. has been restricted. Workers who cross the border daily to do essential work aren't affected. Shipments of key supplies will continue.
- Confirmed instances of COVID-19 disease in Canada have increased
- [States of emergency](#) have been declared in: AB, BC, MB, ON, and NB

The Canadian government has pledged \$82B of which \$27B will directly support Canadian workers and businesses. Read the [full report](#). Highlights include:

Temporary income support for workers and parents:

- For Canadians who don't have paid sick leave (or a similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined, or forced to stay home to care for children, will have access to income support.
- For Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours the government is introducing an [Emergency Support Benefit](#) to support to workers who aren't eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment and implementing a Work Sharing Program.

- For EI sickness benefits, the government is waiving the:
 - One-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits for those in quarantine
 - Requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits

For taxpayers

- Individual tax return filing date has been deferred until June 1
- Payment of any income tax owing after March 18 to September 1 is deferred until after August 31, 2020. No interest will accumulate on these amounts during this period

Revenue Quebec is

- Postponing the income tax filing deadline to June 1
- Suspending the June 15 tax instalment until July 31

Financial institutions are helping

Canada's largest banks have confirmed support to include a six-month payment deferral of mortgages and the opportunity for relief on credit products. Please contact your bank for details. To better understand how these measures will impact your individual situation, please connect with a financial advisor and tax expert.

Prescription medications

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) advises not to stock up on prescription medications. When there's disruption in the supply of medications, pharmacists manage their stock carefully to ensure that all patients can get the medication they need to manage their condition. Unnecessary stockpiling of medication can create shortages and puts others at risk.

Employee assistance program

If your group benefits plan includes an employee assistance program (EAP), you can access their services by connecting with them. The services accessible through an EAP provide an effective way help you cope with stressful situations, and proactively address a variety of issues. Your EAP contact information is provided in your plan member booklet.

Now is a great time to sign up for eServices

To avoid delays in receiving claim payments, sign up for eServices. When you sign up on your insurer's secure site, you'll save time and reduce our carbon footprint. No more forms to fill out or waiting for the mail.

By registering on your insurer's website or mobile app, you can:

- Submit claims online
- Sign up for direct deposit of claim payments
- View your claims history

If you missed it, read *The benefits of being with People COVID-19 Update #2* for information on:

- Travelling outside of Canada and travel coverage available under your benefits plan
- Short-term Disability coverage

For more information

Visit our [site](#) for links to provincial health resources, tips on health and wellness, coverage available under your benefits plan, and more.

Visit the World Health Organization's [site](#) for information on keeping you and your family safe and healthy.

If you have questions, please contact your benefits plan administrator.

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