

Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefits – COVID-19

Sickness Benefits are part of the Employment Insurance program. In response to the COVID-19 situation, Service Canada is waiving the one-week waiting period for its Employment Insurance sickness benefits for those quarantined due to COVID-19. The benefit provides up to 15-weeks of financial assistance up to a maximum of \$573 per week.

Quarantined individuals are not required to provide a medical certificate and should apply directly online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html>.

Service Canada has also setup a dedicated phone line for quarantined individuals who have ready applied and would like to have the waiting period waived.

Telephone: 1-833-381-2725 (toll-free)

Teletypewriter (TTY): 1-800-529-3742

What are EI sickness benefits?

EI sickness benefits provides eligible employees with up to 15 weeks of financial assistance if you cannot work for medical reasons such as illness, injury, quarantine or any medical condition that prevents you from working. You must get a medical certificate to show you are unable to work for medical reasons.

How do you qualify?

To qualify, you need to demonstrate that:

- you are unable to work for medical reasons
- your regular weekly earnings from work have decreased by more than 40% for at least one week
- you have accumulated 600 insured hours* of work in the 52 weeks before the start of your claim or since the start of your last claim, whichever is shorter

*Example: 600 hours are equivalent to 20 weeks of work at 30 hours a week.

While you are receiving sickness benefits, you must remain available for work if it weren't for your medical condition.

If you received Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in the past 52 weeks, you may not be eligible to receive the maximum number of weeks of sickness benefits.

However, if you've worked 600 hours since your last claim, you could start a new claim.

How much will you receive?

You could receive 55% of your insurable earnings* up to a maximum of \$573 a week. The number of weeks of benefits you get depends on how long you're unable to work for medical reasons.

Some employers provide additional money to employees on sick leave. This is called a top-up. Check with your employer to find out if they offer a top-up.

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How to apply

To apply, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html>.

Apply as soon as possible after you stop working. If you wait more than 4 weeks after your last day of work to apply, you may lose benefits.

When will you start receiving these benefits

You'll receive your first payment about 28 days after you apply if you're eligible and have submitted all required information.

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