



USW Guide to Benefits During COVID-19 BRITISH COLUMBIA

● LAID OFF DUE TO WORKPLACE CLOSURE?

Apply for Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits.

- Payment is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings
 - Maxes out at \$573 per week.
 - Paid for 14-45 weeks based on unemployment rate in your region.
- To be eligible, you will need to have worked the following number of hours in the last 52 weeks:
 - 700 hours in Vancouver
 - 665 hours in the Southern Interior
 - 525 hours in Northern BC
 - 630 hours in Southern Coastal BC
- You will need a Record of Employment (ROE) saying you have been laid off from your employer.
- There is a one week waiting period after you are approved, you will not be paid that week.
- You do not qualify if you are unemployed because you are directly participating in a strike.
- You have to apply online. You can do so here: canada.ca/en/services/benefits/privacy-notice

● UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SELF -QUARANTINE?

Apply for EI sickness benefits.

- Payment is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings
 - Maxes out at \$573 per week.
 - Paid for 15 weeks.
- You need to have worked 600 hours in the last 52 weeks.
- You do not need to wait for one week for this benefit. It is paid in the first week of the approved claim.
- No medical note or ROE needed for quarantine claims.
- A yet to be established dedicated toll-free number will be set up for these applications.
- Apply online here: canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply

● LAID OFF BUT INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

● SELF- QUARANTINED AND INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

● UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE?

● STILL EMPLOYED BUT NOT RECEIVING INCOME BECAUSE OF WORK DISRUPTIONS?

Apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

- \$2,000 taxable payment per month.
- Up to four months.
- Applies to wage earners, as well as contract workers who are not otherwise eligible for EI.
- If you have already applied for EI but your application has not been processed you do not need to re-apply.
- The portal for accessing the CERB should be available in early April.
- Benefits should begin within 10 days of application.

● IS THE PROVINCE DOING ANYTHING?

Yes, the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers.

- \$1,000 dollars, tax-free one-time payment.
- If you qualify for any of the EI benefits or CERB, you will automatically qualify and be paid by the B.C. government.
- Temporary Rental Supplement – up to \$500 per month towards rent for low to moderate earners, paid directly to landlords on your behalf.

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