



# USW Guide to Benefits During COVID-19 ONTARIO

## ● LAID OFF DUE TO WORKPLACE CLOSURE?

### Apply for Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits.

- Payment is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings
- Max of \$573 per week less applicable taxes
- 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:
  - Ottawa, Eastern Ontario, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, London, Kitchener, Huron, South Central Ontario, Sudbury, Thunder Bay: 700
  - Central Ontario: 665
  - Oshawa, Niagara: 630
  - Windsor: 595
  - Northern Ontario: 525
- If you are unsure which EI region you are in, you can input your postal code here and find out: [https://srv129.services.gc.ca/eiregions/eng/postalcode\\_search.aspx](https://srv129.services.gc.ca/eiregions/eng/postalcode_search.aspx)
- 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 for that week
- You do not qualify if you are unemployed because you are directly participating in a strike.
- You must apply online. You can do so [here](#).

## ● UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SELF-QUARANTINE OR SICK DUE TO COVID-19?

### Apply for EI sickness benefits.

- Payment is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings
- Paid for 15 weeks.
- You need to have worked 600 hours in the last 52 weeks.
- Once you have applied [here](#) you need to call 1-833-381-2725 to notify that you would like to have the one-week waiting period waived. This line is only for those who are sick or quarantined and affected by COVID-19
- Apply online here: [canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply](https://canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply)

## ● LAID OFF BUT INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

## ● UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE?

## ● SELF-QUARANTINED AND INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

## ● EMPLOYED BUT NOT CURRENTLY PAID BECAUSE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT WORK AND EMPLOYER HAS ASKED YOU NOT TO COME TO WORK?

### Apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

- The government will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 for up to 4 months backdated to March 15th.
- The CERB will be accessible through a secure web portal on April 6th.
- You will also be able to apply via:
  - Your CRA My Account secure portal
  - Your My Service Canada Account; or
  - an automated telephone line via toll-free number
- You should start receiving your benefits 10 days after you submit your application form. The earliest you can receive benefits through direct deposit is April 16th.

## ● IS THE PROVINCE DOING ANYTHING?

- For families facing school/daycare closures province is providing a one-time payment of \$200/child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools
- Doubling the Guaranteed Annual Income system (GAINS) payment for low-income seniors for six months
- Setting electricity prices at the off-peak price for 24 hours a day for 45 days
- \$9 million in direct support to families for their energy bills by expanding eligibility for Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- \$148 million for charitable and non-profit social services like food banks, homeless shelters, churches
- 6-month loan and interest accrual relief to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)