



New federal COVID-19 benefits for workers

The federal government has introduced two new benefits to assist workers who've missed work due to COVID-19.

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit

The [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#) will be available for employees who are unable to work because they've fallen ill from COVID-19 or are required self-isolate. Effective for one year beginning Sept. 27, 2020, those who are eligible can receive \$500 per week, for a maximum of two weeks.

Who is eligible?

The benefit will be available to:

- Residents in Canada who are at least 15 years of age and have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN).
- Workers who are employed or self-employed at the time of the application.
- Workers who earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in 2020.

How can employees apply?

Employees who've missed a minimum of 60 per cent of their scheduled work can apply after one week of being off work and requiring income support. The benefit is taxable and can't be claimed in combination with another paid sick leave benefit.

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit

The [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit](#) will be available for employees who are unable to work because they're caring for their dependents. Also effective for one year beginning Sept. 27, 2020, eligible individuals can receive \$500 per week, per household, for a maximum of 26 weeks.

Who is eligible?

The benefit will be available to those who:

- Reside in Canada.
- Are at least 15 years of age on the first day of the period for which they apply for the benefit.
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN).

- Are employed or self-employed on the day immediately preceding the period for which the application is made.
- Have earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 or 2020.
- Have been unable to work for at least 60 per cent of their normally scheduled work within a given week because of one of the following conditions:
 1. They must take care of a child under 12 years of age.
 2. They must provide care for a dependent or a family member with a disability.
- Are not in receipt of paid leave from an employer for the same week.
- Are not in receipt of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the EI Emergency Response Benefit, the Canada Recovery Benefit, the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, short-term disability benefits, workers' compensation benefits, or any EI benefits or Quebec Parental Insurance Plan benefits for the same week.

How can employees apply?

Employees will be able to apply for the benefit after the period in which they're seeking income support, if they can prove that they've meet the eligibility criteria. The benefit is taxable and only one member per household can apply.

For more information on the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit or the Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit, visit the [government's website](#).

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