

For many individuals and organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of sick leave. There are a number of programs available to provide assistance and this document is intended to make you aware of current supports in Canada.

Please note this list is current as of the date this document was issued and may not be exhaustive. Follow the links provided for the most current information, including eligibility.

### **Sick Leave Assistance for Employees**

- **Employment Insurance sickness benefits** can provide up to 15 weeks of financial assistance for individuals unable to work due to medical reasons. The program has been changed temporarily to help workers access benefits during the pandemic. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness.html>
- **The Canada Recovery Benefit** provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for workers who have stopped working or had their income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19, and who are not eligible for Employment Insurance. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html>
- **The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** provides \$500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks, for workers who are sick with COVID-19 or may have COVID-19, are advised to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying

health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html>

- **The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit** provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers: unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19; because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine or is at high risk of serious health implications because of COVID-19.  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit.html>
- **Public Health Emergency Leave** is a temporary job-protected leave for employees who are unable to work due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This leave does not provide a financial benefit, but ensures that employees are allowed to return to their job, or a comparable job with the same or greater benefits and pay, when they return from leave.  
[https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/coronavirus/business\\_publichealth\\_emergency\\_leave.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/business_publichealth_emergency_leave.pdf)
- **Workers Compensation** benefits may be available for workers who believe that they contracted COVID-19 while at work.  
<https://www.wcb.mb.ca/how-the-wcb-is-responding-to-covid-19>

### **Sick Leave Assistance for Employers**

- **The Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit** provides monthly funding to eligible non-profit organizations in the child welfare, adult disability services, and child care sectors. The benefit assists with the additional costs of maintaining staffing during the pandemic.  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pandemic-staffing-support-benefit.html>
- **The Jubilee Fund's COVID -19 Emergency Loan Fund Program** can help provide operational cash flow relief for charities and non-profits that are negatively impacted by COVID-19. Loans can assist with increased costs due to staffing shortages (i.e., resulting from the need for employees to self-isolate, such as replacement and overtime costs), among other issues.  
<https://www.jubileefund.ca/wp-content/uploads/Emergency-Loan-Fund-Fact-Sheet-Jubilee-Fund.pdf>
- **The Manitoba Economic Support Centre** is a phone line that provides information on provincial and federal support programs for businesses and not-for-profits. Dial 1-888-805-7554 to speak with a service representative.