

November 25, 2020

COVID Quarantine Benefit and COVID-Leave Update - Longshore Benefit plans

As the Covid-19 situation continues to evolve, the various benefit and leave programs available are also changing.

The following update is important for all Plan Members with “A” or B” coverage, as well as those Members with “Lower Board” (LCA) coverage.

COVID Quarantine Benefit

The COVID-19 Quarantine Benefit provides a two-week paid benefit for those unable to work due to COVID-19 and is available to Union Members, Welfare Casuals and Regular Workforce (RWF) Employees with “A” Coverage.

In response to the introduction of the **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)** by the Federal Government (<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html>), the Trustees of the Plan have introduced a change to the existing COVID-19 Quarantine Benefit.

Effective September 28, 2020, in the event of a potential exposure to COVID-19 and/or developing symptoms of COVID-19, all active Union/Welfare Paying Casuals/Regular Workforce are now expected to apply first for the CRSB before accessing COVID-19 Quarantine benefits through the Plan.

To access the Plan benefit, you are now required to provide proof that you are not eligible for CRSB for the same period. *If required, for the period you are in receipt of CRSB, you may also apply to WEBC for ‘Leave related to COVID-19’ to receive Credited Time.*

Leave Related to COVID-19

The Federal government has introduced two new job-protected, unpaid leave programs for absences due to COVID-19. These are available to all Members with “A” Coverage, as well as all Plan Members with “B” Coverage or “Lower Board” Coverage

If necessary, you may apply for credited time through the following programs:

1. ***Leave related to COVID-19 – 2 Weeks***
2. ***Leave related to COVID-19 – Up to 26 Weeks (Caregivers only)***

Further details on these programs can be found at this link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/labour/notice-covid-19.html>

Administration of these programs is done by WEBC, on behalf of the BCMEA.

All documents are available at www.longshoreplans.ca.

As a reminder, during this time we encourage you to contact us and to submit claims as follows:

- **Email - scans and photographs are now temporarily acceptable**
- **Fax - (604) 681-7447**
- **Mail – *please recognize processing times may be slower than by other methods of delivery***

Credited time applications:	creditedtime@webc.ca
Dental:	dental@webc.ca
Enrolments, Prescription Drugs & coverage enquiries:	enrolments@webc.ca
Extended Health:	extendedhealth@webc.ca
Long-term Disability:	ltd@webc.ca
Pensions:	pensions@webc.ca
Weekly Indemnity & Covid-19 quarantine/self-isolation:	weeklyindemnity@webc.ca
Other Enquiries:	info@webc.ca

We thank you all for your patience and understanding as we work through this together.

We will continue to update you on our operational status and Benefit and/or Leave changes the COVID-19 situation evolves.

Kind regards,



Darren McKnight
General Manager, WEBC

