



At The Dupuis Langen Group we are here to support you and your employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Periodically, we will update you on new items we feel will help you to navigate these times. Things are changing rapidly so we will notify you of any changes.

On April 15, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Expanded Access to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program has been available since April 6th. The CERB program provides a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every four weeks for up to four months for eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19.

To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the government will be changing the eligibility rules to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their usual seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

Canadians begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application.

Canadians will have to apply every four weeks, attesting that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the CERB payment, which will be available to individuals for a maximum of 16 weeks, until October 3, 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed particular demands on low-income workers in certain sectors, including those on the front-line in hospitals and nursing homes, those ensuring the integrity of the food supply, or providing essential retail services to Canadians.

In recognition that these essential workers' salaries are often less or similar than what they would receive from the CERB, the government will work with provinces and territories through a new transfer to cost-share a temporary top-up to the salaries of workers deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19, who make less than \$2,500 a month. Details as to the application and delivery of this measure will be released shortly following further work with provinces and territories. This measure could help several million workers currently involved in the COVID-19 response.

For more information, please go directly to link below and it will contain details as well as FAQs:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

New Mental Wellness portal launched:

The Federal Government also launched a new portal dedicated to mental wellness which will connect Canadians to peer support workers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals for confidential chat sessions or phone call, and will make it easier to find credible information and help address mental health and substance use issues on:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-connects-canadians-with-mental-wellness-supports-during-covid-190.html>

For more information on all government programs for individuals and for businesses, please go directly to the Government of Canada website at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.htm>

Introduction of a new Stress Relief tool by The Dupuis Langen Group

This program is offered “free of charge” to help you to manage the stresses that you may be facing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the affect that it may have made on your work and home lives.

There are questions for you to complete which will help determine what tools and resources might work best for you specifically.

To sign up, go to: <http://stressprogram.morewaystobenefit.ca/>

Then enter your access code: DLG2020

For plan members with Short Term Disability coverage in quarantine or self-isolation,

Though every insurer has slightly different policies regarding isolation and quarantine with the spread of Covid-19, many are following a similar model for short-term disability.

Short-term disability is designed to replace a plan member’s earnings if they are unable to work due to illness and injury. Plan members who meet the following COVID-19 criteria are eligible for benefits:





- Plan members who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are unable to work from home are eligible for coverage for their self-isolation period. Many insurers are waiving the waiting period for benefits, please confirm with your plan administrator or account manager if this is the case for you.
- Plan members who have not been tested but have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are unable to work from home, are also eligible for coverage. Claims will be assessed according to the terms of the plan.
- Plan members who are in quarantine for any other reason, but do not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, are not eligible for coverage. These plan members should consider applying for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, if they do not have an option to work from home.

Access to healthcare while keeping a social distance

To maintain social distancing, it is recommended to avoid contact with others to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to keep yourself and the general public safe. If you are feeling unwell, as an alternative to visiting the doctor's office, there are options available for virtual healthcare. Two of these are **Akira** and **Babylon** by Telus Health.



Babylon by TELUS Health is a free healthcare mobile app that allows you to check symptoms, consult with doctors and access your health records right from your phone.

Download the link to get started  or 



Some benefit plans have access to **AKIRA** by Telus Health. Akira lets you save time and instantly connect to a doctor or nurse practitioner to ask questions, get treated, renew prescriptions and keep well. Register online with Akira Health to set up an account. You'll need your policy number and certificate number from your benefits card to verify eligibility. Once registered, download the app and get started right from your mobile phone.

Download the link to get started  or 

Some pharmacies are also **refilling prescriptions online** while others are delivering medications. [Shoppers Drug Mart](#) lets you refill online so everything is ready when you come in to pick it up. They also have partnered with [Maple](#) to get free access to virtual doctors on a temporary basis. One pharmacy that will deliver prescriptions is [Alliance Pharmacy](#) in Richmond. Prescriptions are faxed directly from the doctor's office, filled by the pharmacy and shipped to you within 2 to 5 days.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is standard business practice for benefits if we are laying off employees?

For most of our clients, we are seeing that they are extending the benefits for up to 6 months, with the exception of Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability. However, some insurers are allowing STD and LTD to be continued for up to 3 months from the lay-off date. Check with us to confirm.

2. Can I get more of my prescription refilled to keep on hand?

Unfortunately, you can't get more than a 3 months supply at a time. Pharmacies want to make sure that there are no shortages for prescription drugs, so that everyone can have the medication that is necessary for them.

3. Where can I get up-to-date information on COVID-19?

We provide you with useful up-to-date information as it becomes available; however things are changing day-to-day and this [COVID-19 Provincial Support](#) page is a useful and updated summary of information and news developments from the Provincial Government.



All of us at The Dupuis Langen Group hope you and your families and employees stay safe and healthy during this time. We are completely operational, and all our staff are working remotely. Please contact us by e-mail or phone, we are here to help.

If you would like to share this with your employees, please go ahead and do so.