

Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits

Who is Eligible for Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits?

To be eligible, a person must be unable to work due to sickness, injury or quarantine.

What are the Eligibility Requirements?

- You are required to have worked for 600 hours in the last 52 weeks or since your last claim. You may qualify for sickness benefits even with less than 600 hours. If you are already receiving regular benefits and you become ill while you are on that claim, you may receive the sickness benefits you are entitled to.
- You are required to prove you are unable to work and totally disabled
- You must provide medical documentation which supports that you are disabled and for how long

How long can I receive Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits?

Sickness benefits may be paid up to 15 weeks to a person who is unable to work because of sickness, injury or quarantine.

How do I apply for Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits?

The application is available from Service Canada by calling 1-800-206-7218 or on-line at www.servicecanada.ca. You can complete the form on-line, by mail or in person. You should submit your application as soon as possible.

The Employer must provide you, upon your request, a Record of Employment to submit with your application. Alternatively, the Employer can submit electronically the Record of Employment directly to Service Canada.

The medical form must be completed by your treating physician. Submit the medical form with your application to Service Canada.

What are my ongoing responsibilities when I am receiving Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits?

- Report all periods you could not work because of illness;
- Obtain a medical certificate that confirms how long you were sick and unable to work;
- Provide all required information and documents;
- Report any absences, either from your area of residence or from Canada;

- Report all employment; and
- Report all employment earnings before deductions for the week(s) in which you earn them, as well as any other money you may receive.

What is the two week waiting period?

Before you start receiving EI sickness benefits, there are two weeks for which you will not be paid. The waiting period is like the deductible that you must pay for some types of insurance. You usually serve the waiting period at the very beginning of a benefit period, unless you receive earnings during this two-week period. In that case, the waiting period will start during the first week that you have no earnings.

How do I appeal a decision made by Service Canada regarding my eligibility for Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits?

If you disagree with an EI related decision you have the right to appeal. Information on how to file and prepare for an appeal can be found at www.servicecanada.ca

For additional general information regarding Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits please contact Service Canada at www.servicecanada.ca or call 1-800-206-7218.

If you wish to contact the Pensions and Benefits unit, please email us at pensionsandbenefits@opseu.org

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