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COVID – 19 UPDATE 23

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on workers, program support criteria are subject to change. Be sure to visit www.unifor.org/covid19 to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

This will be our first update for 2021

From the Local Executive, Local Representatives and Staff we hope you all had a safe Christmas and New Year.

However you celebrated the Holiday Season, continue to be safe, kind and understanding to those around you who may be alone or suffering from an illness. Reach out to family and friends if you can by mail, phone, text, or electronic conferencing. Remember to keep within your bubble.



BC Recovery Benefit

BC Recovery Benefit



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>

Apply now for the BC Recovery Benefit, a one-time, tax-free payment of up to \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents and up to \$500 for eligible individuals. You have until June 30, 2021 to apply.

Last updated: January 4, 2021

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How the benefit works

The BC Recovery Benefit (the benefit) is a one-time direct deposit payment for eligible families, single parents or individuals. Benefit eligibility is based on net income from your 2019 tax return. You must apply to receive the benefit.

Benefit rates

The amount you're eligible for will be automatically calculated based on your income when you apply.
Families and single parents

\$1,000 for eligible families and single parents with a net income of up to \$125,000

Reduced benefit amount for eligible families and single parents with a net income of up to \$175,000

The benefit defines a family as an individual and their spouse or common-law partner, unless they are separated. Both people must be residents of B.C. on December 18, 2020.

The benefit defines a single parent as an individual who is the principal caregiver to at least one child. A child is someone under the age of 19 on December 18, 2020 who would not be eligible for the benefit on their own.

Individuals

\$500 for eligible individuals with a net income of up to \$62,500

Reduced benefit amount for eligible individuals with a net income of up to \$87,500

Using 2019 income tax data

As with the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, in order to prevent fraudulent claims, applicants must provide 2019 income tax data to receive the benefit.

British Columbians need support now, and if the benefit relied on 2020 income tax data, payment wouldn't be possible until approximately fall 2021.

Determine your eligibility

Generally, the benefit is available to people:

Who are residents of B.C. on December 18, 2020

Who are at least 19 years old on December 18, 2020, or meet specific eligibility criteria

Who filed a 2019 Canadian personal income tax return, or meet specific eligibility criteria

Who have a valid social insurance number, individual tax number or temporary tax number

If you receive a payment and we later determine that you're not eligible for it, you will be required to repay it.

Note: If you're applying for the family benefit, your spouse or common-law partner must also meet the general eligibility criteria.

Resident of B.C.

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You're likely a resident of B.C. on December 18, 2020 if you lived in the province on that date. If you're unsure if you qualify as a resident, review the residency eligibility.

Residency eligibility
Specific eligibility criteria

The follow circumstances may affect eligibility for the benefit.

Families
Expand All | Collapse All

My spouse or common-law partner is not a B.C. resident

I'm separated from my spouse or common-law partner

I'm separated and have shared custody of my child or children
Income tax return
Expand All | Collapse All

I didn't file a 2019 income tax return

My spouse or common-law partner didn't file a 2019 income tax return

I became a resident in Canada for tax purposes during 2020
Individuals
Expand All | Collapse All

I'm on income or disability assistance

I'm bankrupt

I was in prison in 2020

Deceased individual or partner
People under 19
Expand All | Collapse All

I'm under 19 and have a spouse or common-law partner

I'm under 19 and I'm a single parent
What you need to apply
Net income from your 2019 tax return

You must provide your net income from your 2019 tax return. This number can be found on Line 23600 of your most recent 2019 income tax return.

If you haven't already filed your 2019 tax return, file with the Canada Revenue Agency as soon as possible before applying for the benefit.

There are multiple ways to file, including:

Online, by paper or by phone
Free tax clinics for people with modest income and a simple tax situation. Find a tax clinic

Social insurance number

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When you apply, we'll need your social insurance number, individual tax number, or temporary tax number to verify your eligibility.

Driver's licence number

If you have a B.C. driver's licence, you must provide your driver's licence number. This information will be used to help detect and stop fraudulent claims.

Mailing address

When you apply, you're required to verify your mailing address with Canada Post. This makes sure any information we mail you is delivered to the correct address.

To verify, the application will ask you to use the Verify Address With Canada Post tool. You can either select the "Verified" or "As Entered" option for your address. If we can't find your address, make sure you've entered it correctly and try again.

If your address is not recognized, it may be unverified. You can continue with your application, but there could be a delay in processing your application.

Direct deposit information

The benefit will only be issued by direct deposit. You must have an account with a Canadian financial institution to receive the benefit.

If you're on income or disability assistance and don't have a bank account, a modified application will be available early in the new year to help you apply for and receive the benefit.

Get your direct deposit information from a personal cheque or from your financial institution.

Be prepared to provide:

Branch (transit) number

Institution number

Account number

Sample image of a personal cheque. The image shows how to find the required numbers on a personal cheque.

Submit your application

You can apply online, over the phone or at a Service BC computer terminal. Applications are open until June 30, 2021.

All applications will be verified. In specific circumstances, we may contact you to request additional information to verify your eligibility.

Note: If you're applying as a family, submit only one application. Additional applications delay processing of payment.

Online applications

Applying online is the fastest way to get your payment.

Take your time when applying. Errors or incomplete information can cause long delays in processing your application.

This process takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

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You can use your desktop, tablet or smart phone. Your personal information is protected and secure.

After submitting, we'll email you a confirmation number.

Phone applications

You can apply by phone with the help of our agents. Translation services are available to help you.

We anticipate high call volumes and strongly recommend applying online if you can.

Our agents will complete the application with you and give you a Case ID number when you're done.

Call us Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays.

In-person applications

If you don't have a computer or access to the internet, you can visit a Service BC location near you to use a computer terminal. Terminals are not available at Service BC locations in Burnaby, Surrey and Vancouver.

After you apply

Submit eligibility documentation

If you're asked to submit additional documents to support your application, include your confirmation number or Case ID. You can submit in two ways.

Online

Use our secure document uploader tool. This is the fastest and most secure way to send documentation.

By mail

BC Recovery Benefit
Ministry of Finance
PO BOX 9439 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V3

We strongly recommend that you do not send personal information by email, due to the risk that it may get intercepted. We will process your supporting documents as quickly as possible, though high volumes may result in delays.

Need help?

If you have questions about the documentation you've been asked to provide, contact us at BCRBPsupport@gov.bc.ca or call our toll-free line at 1-833-882-0020. If you need help uploading documents, call us.

Thank you for your patience. We're working as quickly as possible to process your information.

Get your payment

After your application is approved, payment will generally be deposited to your bank account within 5 business days. We'll notify you by email when your payment is processed. You'll also receive a letter in the mail.

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Repayments

You may need to repay the benefit if:

- You applied and later realized you aren't eligible
- You didn't apply and received a payment in error
- We later determine that you're not eligible

How to repay Bank deposit

The fastest way to repay is to have your financial institution return the payment. Provide your financial institution with:

- Deposit date
- Deposit amount
- Payor name "Prov of BC"
- Account number that the payment was deposited into

By cheque

If your financial institution can't return the payment, you can mail us a cheque made payable to the Minister of Finance to:

BC Recovery Benefit
Ministry of Finance
PO BOX 9439 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V3

With the cheque, include either:

- Your confirmation number or Case ID from your application
- A note that states you didn't apply for the benefit if you received it in error

If your cheque is from a different account from the one the payment was deposited into, also include the account information where the payment was deposited so we can mark the payment as returned.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>

If you know of anyone who needs assistance have them contact (or you call) the necessary agencies to get them the help they may need.

Local 114 EFAP: Barbie Zipp Cell # 1.250.881.3515

zipp.barbie@gmail.com



<http://www.bc211.ca/help-lines/>

2-1-1

[211](#) is a free, confidential, multilingual service that links people to resources for help, where and when they need it. We provide information and referral for a broad range of programs and services, including:

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- basic needs like food and shelter
- mental health and addictions support
- legal and financial assistance
- support for seniors, and much more.

Help is available to people anywhere in British Columbia, 24/7 by calling or texting 211.

CBC

B.C. expects to receive 792,000 doses of vaccine by March

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid-19-update-jan-4-1.5861044>



A total of 24,139 people in B.C. have received their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccination as of Jan 3. The province aims to provide vaccines to 3,300 people a day over the next two weeks. (Evan Mitsui/CBC)

B.C. is expecting to receive 792,000 doses of vaccine and provide at least one dose to 550,000 people by March.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix updated B.C.'s plan to immunize its population against COVID-19 in a briefing on Monday.

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A total of 24,139 people in B.C. have received their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccination as of Jan. 3, and the province aims to provide vaccines to 3,300 people a day for the next two weeks. The second

dose of the vaccine will be administered 35 days after the first, in order to maximize the number of people with some level of protection against the virus.

"It's a monumental task," said Henry.

"There are many months left to go on this. We are constrained by logistics and also how much vaccine we are receiving. But we are optimistic."

The next few weeks will see the province vaccinate priority populations, which include staff and residents of long-term care, residents and staff of assisted living residences, people waiting for placement in long-term care, essential visitors in long-term care and assisted living, hospital health-care workers, paramedics, public health workers and people living in remote and isolated First Nations community.

Other priority groups include seniors who don't live in group facilities, people experiencing homelessness, people living in provincial correctional facilities and mental health residential care, hospital staff and general practitioners.

Following those groups, and contingent on supply, B.C. will begin a mass vaccination strategy to immunize the general population, descending in five-year cohorts, after those over 80 have been immunized.

Henry said supply of the Pfizer-BionNTech and Moderna vaccines are expected to increase substantially in March, at which point B.C. will work to significantly ramp up its immunization program.

"Our next challenge is going to be getting as much of our vaccine as we receive out to as many people as possible — at least by April we should have way more vaccines than we can distribute in much more traditional ways to people," she said.

As of Jan. 4, B.C. had received 54,625 doses of vaccine.

Dix said the province is on track to hit its goal of 550,000 immunizations by the end of March.

"We're just starting. We only received 3,900 doses initially, and we're just entering the third week of immunization. We're building up every week. It's an extraordinarily difficult task," he said.

The province will provide more information on its plan to immunize the general population later in January. But Henry said that B.C. "absolutely" has enough health-care staff capacity to ramp up its response once additional doses become available.

"We're looking to our colleagues in primary care, the pharmacists who work with us, immunizers around the province. We talked about some of the nurses and others that work as contact tracers. If we can control our pandemic, then we can reposition people to work on the immunization programs as well," she said.

Read the full story here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid-19-update-jan-4-1.5861044>

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<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/testing-information>



BC Centre for Disease Control

Testing information

Information about COVID-19 testing for British Columbians has recently changed.

Last updated: December 18, 2020

We are learning that some symptoms, like fever or chills, cough, loss of sense of smell or taste, and trouble breathing are more likely to be COVID-19. New guidance for when to get a COVID-19 test reflects this new evidence.

Find the most up to date information on whether you need testing below.

Looking for test results? Go to our Test results page.

What you need to know

Use the B.C. COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to see if you need to be tested for COVID-19

A COVID-19 test is recommended if:

you had a contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and have any one of the symptoms below.

you are experiencing symptoms as described below.

If you feel unwell and are unsure about your symptoms, contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

Testing for COVID-19 contacts

You need a COVID-19 test if:

You are a contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 AND

You have 1 or more of any of the symptoms listed below

A contact is someone who had face-to-face interaction with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Some examples of a contact are:

A partner or family member

Someone you live with

Someone you had close social contact with

Someone you work closely with

To be considered a contact, you would have spent more than 15 minutes with this person, from 48 hours before they developed symptoms to 10 days after. You may have interacted without the use of physical distancing or physical barriers.

Symptoms that require testing

For people who do not know if they had a contact with someone with COVID-19, you need a COVID-19

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test if you have new or worsening symptoms.

If you have 1 or more of these key symptoms, seek testing as soon as possible:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

If you have 2 or more of the symptoms below for more than 24 hours, and they are not related to any other pre-existing conditions, seek testing.

These symptoms are:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have only one of these symptoms, or a symptom that is not on this list and you are able to manage the symptoms at home, stay home until you feel better. If you have any questions, or the symptoms don't go away contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

You should continue to seek care for other medical conditions as needed, even if it's not related to COVID-19.

Children have similar but milder symptoms to adults.

Should I get tested if I don't have symptoms?

If you don't have any symptoms, testing is not recommended even if you are a contact.

In B.C., testing is generally not available through the provincial health care system for people without symptoms including routine screening for employment, travel, school, before surgery or for other health procedures.

If you are unsure, use the B.C. COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to see if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

Learn more:

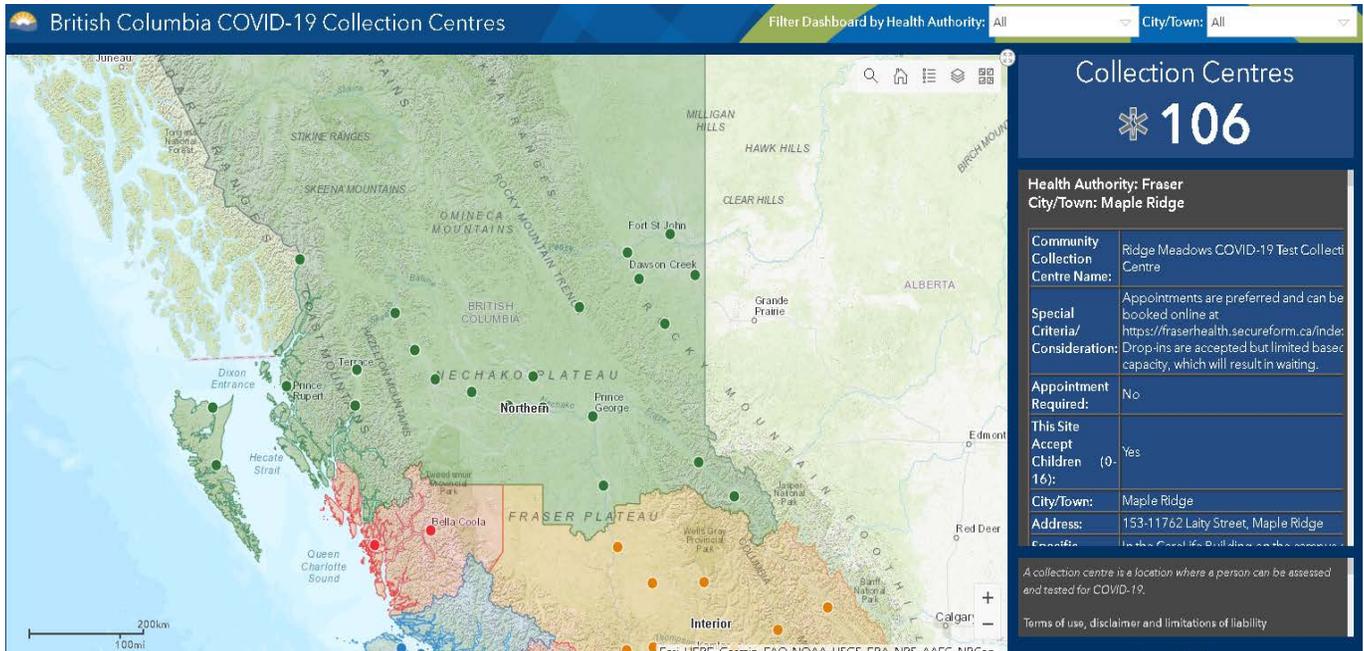
- Read the letter from the Provincial Health Officer on testing prior to travel in B.C.
- Read the information for health care providers about testing people without symptoms.

Find a collection centre to be assessed and get tested

Click on the image or links below for a list of collection centres in the province to find one near you. You can also call 8-1-1 to find the nearest centre. Most COVID-19 testing sites in B.C. can test children and youth.

- Collection centre finder (Mobile and desktop)
- Collection centre finder for Internet Explorer users

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Private testing/ Testing for Travel

There are some private pay clinics that offer testing for a fee to people who require asymptomatic testing for reasons that fall outside of B.C. public health recommendations such as for travel or employment.

- Bon Voyage Medical
- Integrated Wellness Medical Centre (Tri-Cities)
- Travel Safe Immunization
- YVR Medical Clinic
- Ultima Medical
- Travel Medicine & Vaccination Centre
- Iridia Medical

List of locations: Here's where to get tested for COVID-19 in B.C.

Internet Explorer

<https://bcgov03.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/7f71191c6e0c4e65a644c1da3f53eb68>

Mobile and Desktop

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3862560c5a41418e9d78f4f81688e9d0>

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Unifor's website is constantly being updated as new information is provided. Unifor has many websites to direct you to for assistance.

Resources:

Unifor COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://www.unifor.org/covid19>

Government of Canada Outbreak Update: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Government of Canada Income Supports for Workers/Individuals:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Please also check the websites of your respective provinces for any additional provincial supports or resources that may be available to you.

BCCDC website for Health info about COVID-19: www.bccdc.ca

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Health Issues: Dial 811 and follow your Provincial Protocols

Mental Health Issues: Dial 211 or access your EAP benefits:

Other useful websites with information

Federal Government Financial Support Resources:

Government of Canada COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Canadians Outside of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/financial-assistance/covid-19-financial-help>

Government of Canada Economic Plan & How to Apply for Support: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

COVID - 19 Employment and Social Development Canada Information Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Canada Revenue Agency COVID-19: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/covid-19-employee-info.html>

Provincial Government Financial Support Resources:

BC Preparedness Response: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Income Assistance: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

Income Assistance Offices in the Lower Mainland: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services#lowermainland>

Health & Preparation Resources:

COVID-19: Being prepared: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

Government of Canada Symptoms & Treatments: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

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Health Link BC & 811: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/services-and-resources/about-8-1-1>

Other Useful Links:

World Health Organization Myth Busters: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

World Health Organization Public Advice: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
Government of Canada, Community-based Measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>

If you have any questions please contact your Local Union Representative.

Cynthia Anderson anderson@uniforblocals.ca ,

Linda Jensen jensen@uniforblocals.ca ,

Mark Mistic mistic@uniforblocals.ca and

Nathan Shier nate@uniforblocals.ca

New Westminster Office 604.524.9457 1.800.841.5911

Follow phone directory to get to your Local Rep and if not available leave a message you will get a call back.

Employment Insurance questions or EFAP: Barbie Zipp Cell # 1.250.881.3515

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