



PLEASE POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 44

You can scan this QR Code and be taken to the full document from your cell phone or laptop.



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.

All the information contained is from various sources it is not Local 114 Policy or Local 114 Statements.

<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

Want to stay connected to what Unifor members are doing across the country? Then you're in the right place! Keep up to date on the latest Unifor news and events across Canada by signing up for our weekly newsletter. <https://www.unifor.org/node/9508>

Check out Unifor Nationals new website <https://www.unifor.org/>

For specific requests and support, contact covid@unifor.org

Local 114 website <http://www.unifor114.com/>

All the information contained is from various sources it is not Local 114 Policy or Local 114 statements.

COVID-19 Information & Resources

<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

Your hub for facts and workplace resources on protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has gone on longer than many of us expected, or hoped. The toll on many of us has been great as we were separated from loved ones, and possibly struggled with declining income or added pressures at work.

This page is your guide to the resources and information you need to navigate these times over the long haul - whether that means continuing to rely on government COVID relief programs, work from home, ease your way back into work or your workplace was never shut down.

This site is divided into several tabs to help you find the information you need:

- Resources, where you will find resources for applying for government aid, webinars and more
- Updates, where you will find press releases, statements, new resources, releases and more, listed in chronological order
- Health & Safety, which includes the resources you need for safely returning to work and ensuring a safe workplace, including mental health supports
- Local Resources, which contains resources for Local union leadership and Health & Safety reps as they work with employers on COVID-19 protocols in their workplaces
- Sector Updates. Each industry has specific needs during the pandemic, and this tab is meant to provide sector-specific information
- Regional Information. The further we get into the pandemic, the more regional differences are emerging in our responses. Find out what the situation is in your province or territory.

One thing we have learned since the pandemic began is that things are constantly changing as we learn more about the virus, so be sure to **check back regularly to this page** as we update the resources under each of the tabs.

If you have any questions that have not been answered on this page, feel free to reach out via the contact information to the right on your screen.

We all look forward to a stronger and healthier future. Until we get there, it is important that we all work to support one another.

Unifor Events and Offices

Unifor National has adopted a Comprehensive COVID-19 prevention policy for all offices, events, meetings, courses and actions.

Any event organized by Unifor National adheres to a set of health and safety protocols to ensure the health and well-being of members and staff. These protocols include a requirement to show proof of vaccination prior to participating in any Unifor event.

[National Executive Board Statement on Proof of immunization for Unifor events, offices and meetings](#)

The main contact for Unifor National's Comprehensive COVID-19 prevention policy is Unifor's National Secretary-Treasurer Lana Payne.

Health & Safety

Your safe return to work is a top priority at Unifor. Your union is committed to ensuring safe workplaces for all its members, and the COVID-19 pandemic has added an entirely new level to this commitment.

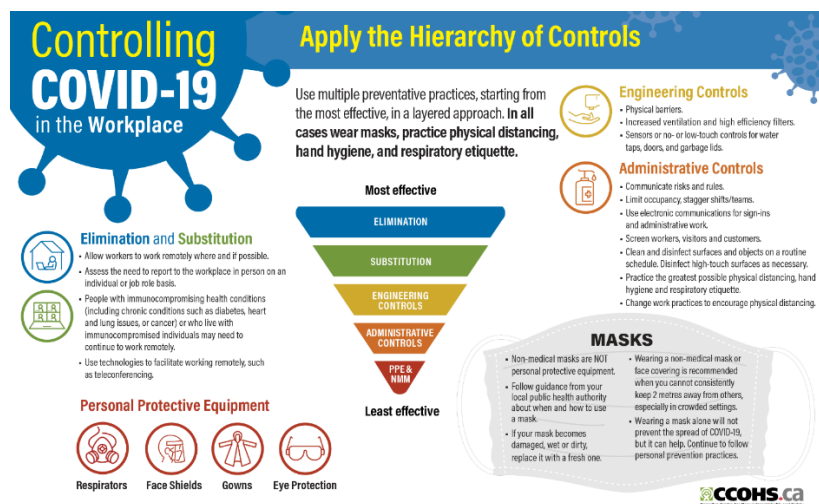
This page is for COVID-19 related health and safety issues only, for other health and safety issues, please see our Health and Safety page [here](#).

On this page you will find the information you need to return to work safely. Be sure to check back regularly for updated information and new documents.

Local leadership and health and safety reps are also encouraged to check out the Resources for Locals tab to help you fulfil your responsibilities.

Health & Safety resources

- Ventilation - The Vital Engineering Control to Protect Workers, December 2021 - [Read the guide](#)
- Returning to the Workplace With COVID-19 All Around, Fall 2021 - [Read the guide](#)
- COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Guide - [Download the guide](#)
- Unifor statement on aerosol transmission of COVID-19 - [Read the statement](#)
- Worker Safety Rep Checklist - [Read the guide](#)
- Checklist for return to work post COVID-19 closure - [Read the guide](#)
- Protecting Workers from the COVID-19 Virus - [Get the health and safety factsheet](#)
- COVID-19 and the Hierarchy of Controls to Protect Lives - [Get the factsheet](#)
- Unifor's demands to protect workers as we restart the economy - [Download the guide](#)
- Health & Safety: The "New Normal" is not the old normal - [Get the factsheet](#)



Income Supports

Unifor has developed a number of fact sheets to help workers navigate the many new federal government programs to help Canadians struggling during the pandemic. These programs are being updated regularly, and Unifor is monitoring all these changes to keep these fact sheets and links up to date, so check back regularly.

Unifor FAQs: Income Assistance, Wage Subsidies, and Other Benefits

- FAQ on EI Temporary Measures [Read the FAQ](#)
- Applying for employment insurance: a how-to guide for Unifor members. [Read the guide.](#)
- Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB) [Get more info.](#)
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) [Get more info.](#)
- Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) [Get more info.](#)
- Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP) [Get more info.](#)
 - Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP) [Get more info.](#)
 - Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP) [Get more info.](#)
- E.I. Work Sharing [Get more info.](#)

Be sure also to check the Regional Information tab on this website for information related to your province or territory.

As well, on the Resources tab, you will find additional information about caregiver benefits, sickness benefits and the Canada Recovery Benefit.

Local and Sector Tools

Unifor's Locals are on the front lines as we work to ensure the safety of our members throughout this pandemic. This page is meant to help Local leadership and health and safety reps as they navigate this new and fast-changing environment.

On the page, you will find the resources you need to work with your employers to ensure safe working places for your members, as well as information specific to your sector.

As always, your National union is year to provide the supports you need. Your National Representative can help you access any additional resources you may need.

Be sure to check back regularly for new documents and updates, and the check out the Health and Safety tab on the website.

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL UNIONS

Local unions play an important role to ensure all workplaces represented by Unifor are as safe as possible.

To achieve a higher level of health and safety protections during this pandemic, Unifor local unions should:

- Keep in touch with workplace representatives, unit chair people, stewards and your national representative.
- Keep track of new confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases and report them to your national representative as soon as possible.
- Ensure all workplaces have active joint health and safety committees.
- Stay informed on Unifor's information, guidelines and campaigns relating to COVID-19.

During the pandemic, Unifor has supported local unions in maintaining the business of the union, holding virtual meetings and votes, and prioritizing health and safety. Local unions can rely on the help of their national representative and Unifor's departments to work through difficult challenges relating to this pandemic.

Unifor has adopted a Comprehensive COVID-19 prevention protocol that includes a vaccine requirement for all Unifor National events, meetings, courses and actions. Local unions who want to develop a similar policy can request a template from the National Union by email.

For specific requests and support, contact covid@unifor.org.

[NEB Statement on Vaccine Certificates and Considerations to Guide the Re-Opening of Canada's Economy](#)

[NEB Statement on Comprehensive Workplace Immunization Programs and Mandatory Vaccinations](#)

[NEB Statement on Proof of immunization for Unifor events, offices and meetings](#)

[Union Activist's Guide to Online Meetings](#)

[Self-screening questionnaire](#)

[Proof of vaccine requirement poster](#)

[Contact-tracing sign-in sheet](#)

SECTOR RESOURCES

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an impact on every workplace across this country – but the nature of that impact changes from sector to sector.

Below are resources you need to address specific needs in your sector.

AIR TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for air transportation workers](#)
- [Government Support for the Air Transportation Industry: Virtual Meeting Request](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What Air Transportation Workers Need to Know](#)
- [Letter to Deputy Prime Minister Freeland Re: Strong, enforceable conditions on corporate support packages](#)

AUTO AND IPS UPDATES

- Auto and IPS COVID-19 Memo

ENERGY UPDATES

- [Energy COVID-19 Info sheet](#)
- [Energy Sector and COVID-19 Memo](#)

FORESTRY UPDATES

- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for forestry workers](#)
- [Forestry Letter to Minister Qualtrough](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What forestry workers need to know](#)

HEALTH CARE UPDATES

- Memo to Unifor long-term care members in Ontario related to testing - March 17, 2021
- Ontario Directive 5 Access to N-95 - February 2021
- Urgent memo to health care members regarding COVID-19
- [Memo for Unifor health care members regarding Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- Letter to Chief Medical Officer regarding Directive Number 5 for Public Hospitals
- [Unifor calls on the federal government for emergency drug coverage for all](#)
- [Letter to Premier Ford regarding ineligibility of Pandemic Pay to many healthcare workers](#)
- [Letter to Ombudsman Dubé regarding Investigation into the Oversight of Long-Term Care Homes](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What workers in the long-term care sector need to know](#)
- New Directive #5 Rules - October 6, 2020
- Memo to Unifor long-term care members in Ontario related to government directives and announcements - October 19, 2020
- Memo to Unifor healthcare care members in Ontario related to workplace rights and staff redeployment - October 19, 2020
- Memo to Unifor health care members in Nova Scotia to government directives and announcements - November 2, 2020
- [Combatting Compassion Fatigue Memo - November 12, 2020](#)

HOSPITALITY AND GAMING UPDATES

- [Hospitality and Gaming COVID-19 Memo](#)
- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for hospitality workers](#)
- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for gaming workers](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What hospitality workers need to know](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What gaming workers need to know](#)
- British Columbia Letter: WorkSafeBC Presumptive Coverage for COVID-19 Infections June 16 2020
- British Columbia Submission: Unifor Submission to BC government Hospitality and Gaming Sector August 10 2020
- British Columbia Submission: Unifor Submission to the BC Tourism Task Force October 8 2020

- British Columbia Submission: Unifor Submission to the BC Tourism Task Force October 21 2020
- [Letter to Deputy Prime Minister Freeland Re: Strong, enforceable conditions on corporate support packages](#)

MANUFACTURING UPDATES

- What the Coronavirus (COVID-19) means for manufacturing workers
- [Restarting the Economy: What manufacturing workers need to know](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What food and beverage processing workers need to know](#)

MEDIA UPDATES

- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for media workers](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What media workers need to know](#)

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION UPDATES

- [Restarting the Economy: What workers in the post-secondary education sector need to know](#)

RAIL UPDATES

- RailLine COVID-19

RETAIL SECTOR UPDATES

- [Retail COVID-19 Memo](#)
- What the Coronavirus (COVID-19) means for retail workers
- [Restarting the Economy: What Retail workers need to know](#)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

- [Letter to telecommunications members - COVID-19](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What workers in the telecommunications sector need to know](#)

TRANSIT UPDATES

- Transit COVID-19 Memo to Staff
- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for the transit and passenger rail workers?](#)
- [What the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) means for student transportation workers?](#)
- [Restarting the Economy: What road passenger transport and urban transit workers need to know](#)

TRANSPORTATION

- [Transit and Truck Drivers License Renewals](#)

MINES, METALS AND MINERALS

- [Mines, Metals and Minerals Workplaces and COVID-19](#)

- [Restarting the Economy: What mines, metals and minerals workers need to know](#)

WAREHOUSING AND LOGISTICS

- [Restarting the Economy: What warehousing and logistics workers need to know](#)

Regional Information

As we move further into the COVID-19 pandemic, provinces, territories and regions across Canada have implemented their own pandemic response plans to address to local needs and to keep their resident safe.

This page is meant to help you find the information you need for your part of Canada, or to help you if you are considering a move to another part of Canada for work or to visit family.

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR COVID-19

- [British Columbia Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Alberta Health Services](#)
- [Saskatchewan Health Authority](#)
- [Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Quebec Health](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Nova Scotia Government](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Yukon Health and Wellness](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Nunavut](#)

Resources



Unifor has developed a number of documents and online tools to help address your needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to apply for income supports, how to return to work safely, dealing with associated stresses and mental health issues, staying safe in your own home and more.

For information specifically on income supports during the pandemic, including Employment Insurance and special pandemic income programs, please see the Income Supports tab of this website.

As vaccines begin to roll out across the country, Unifor is also examining the legal and ethical issues surrounding the roll out – including your rights and making sure vaccines go first to those who need them most. Check out the Vaccines tab on this page for more information.

Be sure, as well, to check out the other tabs on this website for more information on resources for Locals, Health and Safety, Regional and sector-specific information.

As we address the on-the-ground needs of our members, Unifor is also campaigning to ensure governments and industry are doing their part to ensure a speedy and equitable recovery, including:

- [Build Back Better](#)
- [Fair Pay for Health Care workers](#)
- [Fair Pay Forever for Retail workers](#)
- [Fix Employment Insurance](#)
- [Race-based COVID data](#)
- [Extend the Canada Recovery Benefit and Fix EI](#)

Keep checking back regularly. The documents throughout this page are updated regularly as programs change and new ones are announced.

Education Department webinars

Sign up for Unifor's Education Department webinar sessions here <http://onlineeducation.unifor.org/>

Special Recovery Benefits

The federal government has set up several special programs to provide income support to Canadians impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

- Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit

The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLDB) gives income support (\$270 after taxes, for each 1-week period an eligible region is in lockdown) to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work due to a COVID-19 lockdown. Note that specific regions are considered to be in lockdown if they have been subject to capacity-limiting restrictions of 50% or more for more than 7 consecutive days. [Click here for more information and to find out if you are in an eligible region.](#)

- Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit

The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) gives income support (\$450 after taxes each week, for up to 44 weeks) to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care. [Click here for more information.](#)

- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit

The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) gives income support (\$500 \$450 after taxes each week, for up to 6 weeks) to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they're sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19. [Click here for more information.](#)

Women

[Domestic violence and the workplace during the pandemic](#)

[Safe at home. Safe at work. End domestic violence. Shareable.](#)

Public Health Canada is your most reliable source for medical information about COVID-19 prevention measures, symptoms, and preparedness plans. You will find a complete list of resources including updates on the [government's responses on their website.](#)

General Information About the COVID-19 Pandemic

Public Health Canada is your most reliable source for medical information about COVID-19 prevention measures, symptoms, and preparedness plans. You will find a complete list of resources including updates on the [government's responses on their website.](#)

Vaccines



As vaccines begin to roll out across the country, Unifor is also examining the legal and ethical issues surrounding the roll out – including your rights and making sure vaccines go first to those who need them most.

The virus has hit Canadians disproportionately, exposing inequities across our society. We cannot stand by and allow the vaccine rollout to follow this dangerous precedent.

You can help build support for vaccines by adding a frame to your Facebook profile picture saying "I'm getting vaccinated." [Just click here to update your profile photo.](#)

On April 6, 2021, Unifor National President Jerry Dias sent letters to every provincial premier in Canada calling for time off for workers to be vaccinated, and for paid time off if they have COVID-19 symptoms, to help stop the spread of the virus. You can read the letters here:

- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Quebec](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

Unifor will continue to post new materials as they are developed and to act on your behalf to ensure a smooth and equitable rollout. For now, please see these documents:

- [Draft model COVID-19 vaccination language](#)
- [Vaccine workplace Q&A](#)
- [Doctors answer questions about vaccines](#)
- [Letter to the Prime Minister on vaccine distribution](#)

The federal government and each of the provinces and territories have developed vaccine roll out plans:

- [Federal](#)
- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Quebec](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Nunavut](#)
- [Yukon](#)

[NEB Statement on Vaccine Certificates and Considerations to Guide the Re-Opening of Canada's Economy](#)

[NEB Statement on Comprehensive Workplace Immunization Programs and Mandatory Vaccinations](#)

News



[Open Letter to Unifor Local Unions, Activists, and Staff](#)



[Unifor urges Premier Ford to protect COVID heroes from anti-vaccine...](#)

September 30, 2021



[Unifor webinar outlines policies surrounding workplace COVID-19...](#)

September 28, 2021

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Accessibility

Documents can be requested in alternative/accessible formats by emailing communications@unifor.org

[Email us](#)



EI Temporary Measures FAQ

- - The Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion proclaimed these changes through Interim Orders Nos. 8 and 9 under the Employment Insurance Act on August 29, 2020. On March 17, 2021, legislation introducing special temporary EI measures, [Bill C-24](#), received Royal Assent.
- - More recently, on October 21, 2021 the federal government announced an extension to the Canada Recovery Caregiving and Sickness Benefits. They further announced an end to the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), to be replaced by a new

Canada Worker Lockdown benefit. Below is important information on these recent program changes as well as EI rules by date of claim.

•
• **For claims made between September 27, 2020 to September 25, 2021:**

- Maximum EI Regular benefit duration extended to 50 weeks in all regions.
- Duration calculated at 13.1% unemployment rate (or higher, if applicable).
- Minimum \$500 weekly (\$450 after taxes) and paid bi-weekly.
- Workers receive benefits equivalent to 55% of normal earnings up to a maximum of \$573 in 2020 and \$595 in 2021.
- Fixed 14 Best weeks of earnings used for benefit calculation (not variable 14 to 22 weeks).
- Waiver of 1 week waiting period.
- Separation payment allocation is suspended.
- Qualifying in all regions is a universal 420 insured hours for EI Regular and EI Special Benefits.
- A special "Hours Credit" is given of 300 hours for regular EI Benefits and 480 hours for Special Benefits to lower the overall qualifying threshold to a universal 120 hours is given.
- Normal 52-week period to accumulate hours extended for CERB claimants.
- Medical certificate waived for sickness benefits.
- Fishers' earnings look-back extended.
- Multiple job holders can use all insured accumulated hours provided last separation is valid and ROE is issued.

• **For claims between September 26, 2021 to September 25, 2022:**

- Duration of benefits is based upon worker's accumulated hours and regional unemployment rate.
- Benefit rate is 55% of normal earnings up to a maximum of \$595 in 2021.
- Separation payment allocation is suspended.
- A minimum benefit rate of \$300 applies to claims made between September 26, 2021 and November 20, 2021.
- Qualifying in all regions is a universal 420 insured hours for both EI Regular Benefits and EI Special Benefits.
- Multiple job holders can use all insured accumulated hours provided last separation is valid and ROE is issued.

• **For new claims after September 25, 2022:**

- All EI temporary measures highlighted above revert back to pre-covid EI Regulations & EI Act provisions (unless further extended or amended)
-

- The EI premium freeze ends in December 2022
- EI Sickness benefits increase to a 26-week maximum benefit duration from the current 15-week maximum in Summer of 2022

• **How do I apply for EI benefits?**

- For information on how to apply for EI, read the [Unifor “how-to” guide](#).

• **Once I start receiving EI benefits, how do I continue to receive them?**

- All EI claimants must submit bi-weekly reports to Service Canada in order to demonstrate ongoing eligibility, as per traditional EI rules.

• **Will I have to serve an EI waiting period?**

- EI eligible workers who begin a claim between September 27, 2020 and October 25, 2020, or are transitioning to EI from CERB, will have their waiting period waived.
- Every person who establishes an initial claim for EI benefits between January 31, 2021 and September 25, 2021 will have their one-week waiting period waived.
- Claims submitted after September 25, 2021 will have a one-week waiting period apply.

• 2

• **Can I work while collecting EI regular benefits?**

- Workers may work and earn income while on an EI claim. However, weekly EI benefit payments for these individuals will adjust according to existing “*Working While on Claim*” rules under the EI program.
- Under these rules, EI benefit payments will reduce by 50¢ for every dollar earned **up to 90 percent of your previous weekly earnings** (roughly four and a half days of work). Above this cap, your EI benefits are deducted dollar-for-dollar.

• **Will my severance or vacation pay affect my EI benefits?**

- New, temporary EI measures will suspend the so-called “allocation of payment” provision for severance and vacation pay. In other words, workers who receive severance and vacation pay will not have those payments deducted from EI regular benefits. This suspension will end and revert back to pre-COVID language as of September 25, 2022 unless a further extension happens or reform deems this measure permanent.

• **Are EI benefits taxed?**

- Federal, provincial and territorial taxes are deducted from EI benefit payments. This is unlike the CERB, which was taxed at the end of the year (i.e. paid back to the government at tax time) and not taxed on payment.

What happens if I am ineligible for EI benefits?

- The federal government established the [Canada Recovery Benefit \(CRB\)](#) for claims between September 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021. This federal government support benefit was for workers whose income had dropped or who had not returned to work due to COVID-19. The benefit provided \$500 per week for up to 21 periods (42 weeks), to workers who were self-employed or were not eligible for EI and who still required income support and who were available and looking for work. Note: Payment amounts changed to **\$600** (\$540 after taxes withheld) for each 2-week period if either: you had already applied for 21 periods or you were reapplying for your first period on or after period 22 (July 18 to 31, 2021). You were able to re-apply up to a total of 27 eligibility periods (54 weeks) between September 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021. The Canada Revenue Agency administered the Canada Recovery Benefit. More information is available [here](#). The CRB has now come to an end as of October 23, 2021.
- The federal government has instead established the new [Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit](#) which provides \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are unable to work due to a local lockdown anytime between October 24, 2021 and May 7, 2022. This benefit will be accessible for the entire duration of a government imposed public health lockdown (retroactive to October 24 should the situation warrant and until May 2, 2022).

What other temporary benefits has the government announced?

- The federal government announced two additional recovery benefits: the **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** and the **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit**.
- The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit will provide \$500 per week, for up to 6 weeks, effective September 27, 2020 to May 7, 2022, for workers who are unable to work because they are sick or must self-isolate due to COVID-19.
- The Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit, would be effective from September 27, 2020 to May 7, 2022, and provide \$500 per week, for up to 44 weeks per household to eligible Canadians. This benefit intends to assist individuals unable to work because they are provide care to children or support to other dependents who had to stay home due to COVID-19.
- Additional information and eligibility criteria for the Recovery Sickness Benefit and Recovery Caregiver Benefit is available [online](#).
- Additional benefits related specifically to COVID-19 relief could also be available through provincial support programs

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<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus>



THE COVID-19 BRIEF

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Your resource for cutting through fear and misinformation. Check your email for trusted reporting and analysis to help differentiate between fact and fiction.

Follow [the latest updates](#) and read [full coverage](#)

The outbreak [by the numbers](#) (as of 1 p.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022):

- Canada: 2,859,195 cases | 306,002 active | 32,181 deaths
- Globally: 338,978,919 cases | 5,569,279 deaths

Hospitalizations [by the numbers](#) (as of 1 p.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022):

- Canada: 10,502 hospitalizations

Vaccine distribution [by the numbers](#) (as of 1 p.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022):

- Total vaccine distribution as of January 13, 2022: 86,072,332
- Total pediatric vaccine allocations as of January 13, 2022: 5,800,000

Vaccinations [by the numbers](#) (as of 1 p.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022):

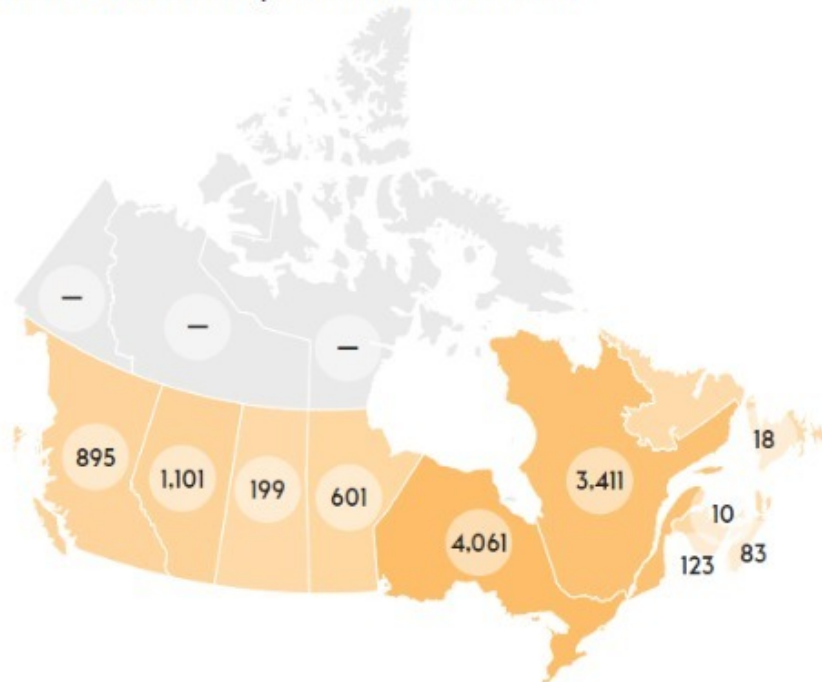
Jan 21, 2022

- World: 9,788,986,851 doses given | 60.24% first dose | 51.6% fully vaccinated
- Eligible population (5+) in Canada: 87.3% first dose | 81.8% fully vaccinated

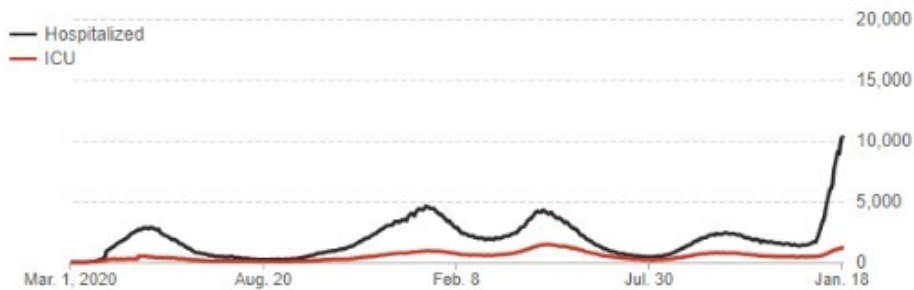
Total population in Canada: 83% at least one dose | 77.8% fully vaccinated

Current COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada

Canada



COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada



Click map to view historical data and notes for each province.

Here's what's been happening in Canada

Omicron wave. Canada's fifth wave appears to be finally peaking in some provinces, but in others, the worst is likely [still to come](#) both in terms of hospitalizations and worker

absenteeism. Omicron [does not appear](#) to be contagious for a shorter period of time, despite provinces shortening isolation periods to less than 10 days. As several friends noted, this is the wave where we regularly find out someone we know has tested positive. It has swept through [entire families](#), leaving some

Jan 21, 2022

parents worried about the potential impact of an infection, especially for young unvaccinated children, given the unpredictable way even a mild case can hit some individuals.

Worker shortages. The sheer number of infections due to Omicron is putting an enormous strain on workforces across numerous industries, leaving public health and political leaders with the difficult decision of balancing how much risk we are willing to tolerate. This includes border testing, with airlines and Toronto's Pearson airport [asking the government](#) to drop mandatory arrival testing requirements. Some experts say the

requirement is like "[trying to stop mosquitoes in the summer](#)" and diverting testing resources away from provinces. For a deeper dive into what's happening in different sectors, click below:

- ['Ready to quit': B.C. nurses, doctors exhausted as hospitalizations yet to peak](#)
- [Ontario's death care industry struggling to meet demand, funeral director says](#)
- [Grocery store closures loom amid labour, product shortages](#)
- [WestJet cancels 20 per cent of Feb. flights amid staffing shortage due to Omicron](#)
- [Canada Post employees may be sent home if they choose to wear an N95 mask](#)

Snapshot across Canada. Hospitalizations in B.C. have [far exceeded](#) their previous record and the province's seven-day average for coronavirus-related deaths is now at its highest since mid-November at more than seven per day. Just weeks earlier, it had been steady at 1.3 deaths per day. In Alberta, hospital numbers are also nearing pandemic highs, with the number of patients having grown by [33 per cent](#) over the span of a single week. Some patients arriving in the emergency department for other reasons and testing positive for COVID-19 are [adding to the strain](#) on health-care workers.

In Saskatchewan, experts believe the peak is still [two to four weeks away](#), with rising hospitalizations currently below numbers hit in the previous wave. The number of patients in the hospital in Manitoba has also reached a record, with the province's top doctor [reminding the public](#) that unvaccinated people are three times as likely to be hospitalized, 11 times as likely to be admitted to intensive care, and 10 times as likely to die with COVID-19. The intense medical backlog has the province's health minister releasing plans that could see some patients even [sent to Fargo, North Dakota](#) if necessary.

In Ontario, more than 4,000 people are currently hospitalized and [nearly 600 are in ICU](#), but experts believe the province is [reaching the peak](#) of the wave with the rate of new hospitalizations slowing, giving more hope and optimism [that the worst may soon be over](#). The encouraging signs have prompted the province to plan for [restrictions to ease](#) starting the end of this month. Quebec too is seeing the [rate of new hospitalizations slow](#), though the health network is still grappling with [staffing shortages](#). At its worse, the province was short 20,000 workers; that figure has now dropped to around 12,000.

- [Alberta restaurant ordered to close for accepting dog photos instead of vaccination proof](#)

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- [Quebec girl, 4, dies of 'circumstances related to COVID-19': hospital](#)
- [Vaccination passport now required at liquor and cannabis shops in Quebec](#)
- [N.B. reports two deaths, 322 health-care workers test positive](#)
- [N.B. residents respond to call for help with province's pandemic response](#)
- [P.E.I. reports one death, 304 new cases](#)
- [Click here for more on hospitalizations, ICUs, and case numbers in Canada](#)

'Pure evil'. The pandemic, with its lockdowns and travel restrictions, has seen millions of Canadian children staying at home and spending more time than usual online. We have a story this week on the RCMP and national tip line Cybertip.ca warning about a rise in [online child exploitation](#) compared to before the pandemic, a disturbing trend that has also been seen globally.

[The latest headlines...](#)

In vaccines and COVID-19 therapeutics. A new study that did a systematic review of COVID-19 vaccine trials found that the “nocebo” effect accounted for approximately 76 per cent of all common adverse effects, such as headache and fatigue, after the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and close to 52 per cent after the second dose. The nocebo effect refers to when a person experiences [unpleasant side-effects after taking a placebo](#), and is thought to stem from negative expectations associated with taking the treatment.

- [Despite having enough doses for all, just 35 per cent of Canadians boosted](#)
- [No evidence healthy kids, adolescents need boosters, WHO chief scientist says](#)
- [Canadian trial: Remdesivir reduces need for ventilation by half](#)
- [Dozens of firms to make cheap version of Merck pill for poorer nations](#)

In research and data. As COVID-19 continues to infect tens of thousands of Canadians every day, one Toronto doctor says he is worried that it could also result in an explosion of people with long-haul symptoms, potentially creating a "[mass disabling event](#)." Long COVID-19 symptoms include cardiovascular issues, respiratory symptoms, and even memory impairment. For some patients, the symptoms are so debilitating, they're unable to work. [A Lancet study from July 2021](#) also found that 96 per cent of people with long COVID-19 can experience symptoms for longer than three months.

Separately, a study published this week by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that during the Delta wave, both vaccination and prior infection protected against COVID-19, but [vaccination was the safest](#) way to do so. The study, however, did not factor in time from vaccination or capture waning vaccine immunity, into its analysis. Click below for more stories:

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- [Study reveals potential genetic risk factor for loss of smell and taste](#)
- [Omicron highlights fading hope of herd immunity](#)
- [COVID-19 detected for first time in Ontario wildlife](#)

Around the world. Tennis star Novak Djokovic's high profile battle to participate in the

Australian Open despite his unvaccinated status ended this week after three judges [unanimously ruled in support](#) of the country's immigration minister who cancelled his visa. The judges said the minister's concerns around Djokovic's impact and influence on the public health and order were not unreasonable. Read more on their [statement here](#).

A tragic story making the rounds this week involves a [Czech folk singer, Hana Horka](#), who died on Sunday after intentionally exposing herself to the coronavirus at home so she could be "done with COVID," according to her son Jan Rek. Both her son and husband were vaccinated when they caught the virus, but Horka was not.

- [U.K. lifts COVID-19 restrictions, says Omicron wave 'has peaked'](#)
- [Europe considers new COVID-19 strategy: accepting the virus](#)
- [New Zealand says it won't use lockdowns when Omicron spreads](#)
- [Coronavirus spreading like never before in Americas, health agency says](#)
- [China's international flight suspensions leave travellers stranded, hurt businesses](#)
- [Interactive Graphics: Compare Canada and other countries](#)

One last thing...

To end this Thursday's newsletter, we have a story about a medical team in Ottawa that has been caring for the sickest COVID-19 patients for the last two years. What's unusual is the [entire team is led by women](#), including the chief of staff and the senior medical officer. "The best way to shift culture is to actually role model it. I think it's easy to speak about diversity and equity but until people actually put pen to paper and demonstrate that it is actually being implemented it's almost impossible," says Dr. Samantha Halman, an internal medicine specialist and Training Program Director for General Internal Medicine at The Ottawa Hospital.

Just a heads up, our usual Monday edition with my colleague Jennifer Ferreira will be sent on Tuesday next week. Thank you as always for reading,

Solarina Ho, CTVNews.ca writer

Have feedback about the newsletter? Send [your comments here](#).

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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>
<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

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>

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BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yhcc4aB>

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 ,

Nathan Shier nate@uniforblocals.ca ,

Dave Boros boros@uniforblocals.ca

New Westminster Office 604.524.9457 1.800.841.5911

Victoria Office 778.265.9855 1.855.554.6649

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
zipp.barbie@gmail.com

Gord McGrath President Local 114 mcgrath@uniforblocals.ca

Bill Gaucher Secretary Treasurer Local 114 gaucher@uniforblocals.ca
www.unifor114.com

Main Office Location

First Floor, 326 - 12th Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 4H6
Tel: 604.524.9457
Toll-free: 1.800.841.5911
Fax: 604.524.0419
Fax: 1.877.624.9906



Island Office Location

220 – 4252 Commerce Circle
Victoria, BC V8Z 4M2
Tel: 778.265.9855
Toll-free: 1.855.554.6649
Fax: 778.265.9815

All the information contained is from various sources it is not Local 114 Policy or Local 114 Statements.
