



COVID-19 Update for CDHA members

March 18, 2020

CDHA is Here to Help

Read our latest updates: www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts

Email us: alerts@cdha.ca

Dear member,

As questions multiply, CDHA is focused on curating helpful resources and information to support dental hygienists and other oral health professionals during this challenging time to manage and rebound as best possible.

- **About today's federal announcement - aid package to support Canadians**

Today, the government announced a sweeping \$27 billion relief package in direct payments to Canadians that will start in the next few weeks. Another \$55 billion was announced for tax deferrals (businesses and families). This first phase includes measures that will flow through programs that are already in place such as employment insurance and childcare benefits, for everyday Canadians who don't qualify for EI. Subject to change, these programs will last for up to 14 weeks and applications will begin in April 2020.

- Emergency care benefit - up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks as temporary income support for workers (including the self-employed) who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 or who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; and parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
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- COVID-19 emergency support benefits – payments (undisclosed amounts) to unemployed workers who are not eligible for EI (through the CRA, up to \$5.0 billion).

CDHA anticipates that all members will be covered by one or the other of the new EI or equivalent measures. The central message was the national public health response should not be limited by financial considerations.

Additionally, for Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the government is:

- waiving the one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. This temporary measure will be in effect as of March 15, 2020.
- waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.

The government is also offering measures for:

- eligible small employers, with a temporary wage subsidy for employers (10% of salaries or wages paid over period of three months).
- individuals currently in the process of repaying Canada Student Loans, with a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of for all.

To learn more about the complete set of measures for Canadians and businesses: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Understand your Right to Refuse Unsafe Work conditions

Know your worker rights and responsibilities and the steps you can take to remediate unsafe work conditions or exercise your right to refuse unsafe work. Procedures may vary by province, please see your provincial site below.

Before you report unsafe work practices, you can:

- discuss your concerns with your professional regulator
- discuss your concerns with your supervisor or employer
- consult your joint health and safety committee member or health and safety representative, if there is one.

Note: Hours of operation may vary. Check with government websites for more details.

Ontario	Health and Safety Contact Centre 1-877-202-0008
British Columbia	Prevention Information Line 1-888-621-7233 / 604-276-3100 (Lower Mainland)
Alberta	OHS Contact Centre 1-866-415-8690 / 780-415-8690 (in Edmonton)
Saskatchewan	Occupational Health and Safety Division 1-800-567-7233
Manitoba	Workplace Safety and Health 1-855-957-SAFE (7233)
Quebec	Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail 1-844-838-0808
New Brunswick	WorkSafeNB 1-800-999-9775
Nova Scotia	OHS Division General Inquiries and Reporting Toll-free: 1-800-952-2687
Newfoundland and Labrador	OHS Division 709-729-3275
Prince Edward Island	Occupational Health & Safety 24hr Emergency Line 902-628-7513
Northwest Territories	Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Prevention Services 1-800-661-0792
Yukon	Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board 1-867-667-5450
Nunavut	Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Prevention Services 1-877-404-4407