

COVID 19 Information for Youth and Young Adults (2020March31)

HEALTH RESOURCES	<p>BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool https://bc.thrive.health/covid19</p>
	<p>B.C. COVID-19 Support App Launches on iOS, Android and the Web: The British Columbia government has launched a new COVID-19 support app for residents to stay informed about the coronavirus pandemic. https://www.iphoneincanada.ca/app-store/bc-covid-19-support-app-ios-android/</p>
	<p>Government of Canada COVID19 Health and Outbreak Information: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html</p>
	<p>ISLAND HEALTH: The link below provides the current services that Island Health are providing as well as open tele-link services and open labs, imaging centres and pharmacy information. https://www.divisionsbc.ca/victoria/COVID19</p>
	<p>Health Care from Home: Use the Health Care App below to speak with an In-province physician from your home (including evenings and weekends). https://www.telus.com/en/bc/health/personal/babylon</p>
	<p>8-1-1 https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/services-and-resources/about-8-1-1 8-1-1 is a free-of-charge provincial health information and advice phone line available in British Columbia. By calling 8-1-1, you can speak to a health service navigator, who can help you find health information and services; or connect you directly with a registered nurse, a registered dietitian, a qualified exercise professional, or a pharmacist.</p>
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS	<p>Managing COVID-19 Stress, Anxiety & Depression 5 steps to manage COVID-19 stress, anxiety and depression</p>
	<p>COVID 19 Counsellors: A group of 25 counsellors have gotten together to offer free, short-term video/phone counselling to folks in BC at this time. Email: bccovidtherapists@gmail.com to get connected to a counsellor. A counsellor will get back to you as soon as possible.</p>
INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE MAINTAINING EMPLOYMENT	<p>NEW COVID-19 leave https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/time-off/leaves-of-absence#covid19</p> <p>An employee can take unpaid, job-protected leave related to COVID-19 if they're unable to work for any of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are following the instructions of a medical health officer or the advice of a doctor or nurse • They are in quarantine or self-isolation and are acting in accordance with an order of the provincial health officer, an order made under the Quarantine Act (Canada), guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control or guidelines from the Public Health Agency of Canada • Their employer has directed them not to work due to concern about their exposure to others

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They need to provide care to their minor child or a dependent adult who is their child or former foster child for a reason related to COVID-19, including a school, daycare or similar facility closure • They are outside of BC and unable to return to work due to travel or border restrictions <p>The COVID-19 leave is retroactive to January 27, 2020, the date that the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in British Columbia. During this public health emergency, employees can take this job-protected leave for the reasons above as long as they need it, without putting their job at risk. Once it is no longer needed, this leave will be removed from the Employment Standards Act.</p> <p>Work-Sharing program https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/guide-employee.html</p> <p>Work-Sharing is an Employment Insurance (EI) program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. The program provides EI benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. Note that the employer and the employees (and the union, if applicable) must agree to participate in a Work-Sharing agreement, and must apply together.</p> <p>WorkSafeBC information for employees: https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/health-and-safety/what-workers-should-do</p>
<p>PROVINCIAL FUNDING SUPPORTS</p>	<p>BC Emergency Benefit for Workers: The BC Emergency Benefit for Workers provides a <u>one-time \$1,000 payment</u> for people who lost income. B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance, or the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit are eligible. Applications for the one-time payment will open soon. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW</p> <p>Climate Action Tax Credit: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW</p> <p>A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An adult will receive <u>up to \$218.00</u> (increased from \$43.50) • A child will receive \$64.00 (increased from \$12.75)
<p>FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORTS</p>	<p>Extra time to file income tax returns For individuals, the return filing due date will be deferred until June 1, 2020. They will also allow any new income tax balances due, or instalments, to be deferred until after August 31, 2020 without incurring interest or penalties. * It's encouraged not to delay filling your tax return if you expect to receive GST or Child Tax benefits, to ensure that these entitlements for 2020-21 benefits are properly determined.</p>

	<p>You can e-file your taxes that are free to low cost found at the link here: https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/netfile-overview/certified-software-netfile-program.html</p>
	<p>Increasing the Canada Child Benefit https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increasing_canada_child_benefit The Federal Government is providing an <u>extra \$300 per child</u> through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20. This benefit will be delivered as part of the scheduled CCB payment in May. Those who already receive the Canada Child Benefit do not need to re-apply. *We encourage you to not delay your 2019 return filing to ensure that your entitlements are properly determined.</p>
	<p>Special Goods and Services Tax credit payment https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increasing_canada_child_benefit The Federal Government is providing a one-time special payment by early May through the Goods and Services Tax credit for low- and modest-income families. The average additional benefit will be <u>close to \$400</u> for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples. There is no need to apply for this payment. If you are eligible, you will get it automatically. *We encourage you to not delay your 2019 return filing to ensure that your entitlements are properly determined.</p>
	<p>The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increasing_canada_child_benefit The Federal Government will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• workers who must stop working due to COVID19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support.• workers who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19.• working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures.• workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.• wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance. <p>The Canada Emergency Response Benefit will be accessible through a secure web portal starting in early April. Applicants will also be able to apply via an automated telephone line or via a toll-free number.</p>
	<p>Apply for Employment Insurance https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html</p>

	<p>If you have lost your job through no fault of your own and qualify for Employment Insurance benefits, you can submit your request today. You can receive EI from 14 weeks up to a maximum of 45 weeks. You could receive 55% of your insurable earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week. The amount you receive depends on your insurable earnings before taxes in the past 52 weeks or since the start of your last claim, whichever is shorter.</p> <p>Improved access to Employment Insurance sickness benefits https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html If you are sick, quarantined or have been directed to self-isolate, they will waive the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits. EI Benefits provide up to 15 weeks in income replacement for eligible claimants who are unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine. You could receive 55% of your insurable earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week. The amount you receive depends on your insurable earnings before taxes in the past 52 weeks or since the start of your last claim, whichever is shorter.</p>
<p>TENANT INFORMATION</p>	<p>Temporary Rent Supplement https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/covid-19-support The temporary rent supplement will provide up to \$500 per month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be available to low to- moderate-income renters who are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs • Applications for the supplement will open soon on the BC Housing website • The supplement will be paid directly to landlords <p>Halting Evictions https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/covid-19-support A landlord may not issue a new notice to end tenancy for any reason. The enforcement of existing eviction orders issued by the Residential Tenancy Branch are also halted, except in extreme cases where there are safety concerns. In exceptional cases where an eviction may be needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the property, landlords will be able to apply to the Residential Tenancy Branch for an order.</p> <p>Freezing Rent Increases New annual rent increases are frozen during the state of emergency.</p> <p>Preventing the Spread of COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlords are prohibited from accessing rental units without the consent of the tenant (for example, for showings or routine maintenance), except in exceptional cases where it is needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the unit. Renters and landlords can now use email to serve documents. • Landlords are allowed to restrict the use of common areas by tenants or guests. • Tips for residents of apartments and other multi-unit buildings <p>COVID 19 Tenant Rights Factsheet – Together Against Poverty Society https://www.tapsbc.ca/renters-factsheet</p>

MONTHLY BILLS	<p>BC Hydro https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW Customers can defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty through the COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program Customers experiencing job loss, illness or lost wages due to COVID-19 can access <u>grants up to \$600</u> to pay their hydro bills through the Customer Crisis Fund.</p>
	<p>ICBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers on a monthly payment plan who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19 may defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty • ICBC insurance renewals can now be done by phone or email
	<p>Student Loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.C. Student Loans: Starting March 30, 2020, B.C. student loan payments are automatically frozen for six months. • Canada Student Loans: There is automatically a 6 months interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada student loans for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans.
TRANSPORTATION	<p>BC Transit fares and passes are not required at this time.</p>
	<p>BC Ferries is operating at reduced capacity, advises against non-essential travel</p>