



Last Updated: May 20, 2021

COVID-19 Financial Supports & Benefits

- If you get sick with COVID-19
- If you are exposed to COVID-19 and are required to self-isolate
- If you experience any other “Eligible COVID-19 Event” from work

1) Sick Leave Pay from Productions – [CLICK HERE](#)

- Full details see **PAGE 14 of the Sideletter re:COVID-19** – Effective May 1, 2021 – [CLICK HERE](#)
- Contact the UBCP/ACTRA Rep for the production you were working on by calling 604-689- 0727 or email info@ubcpactra.ca as soon as possible for assistance.

2) WorkSafeBC (WCB) Claim for Illness - [CLICK HERE](#)

If any worker contracts Covid-19 as a direct result of their employment, they are entitled to compensation with WorkSafeBC (aka WCB) if the following conditions are met:

1. There is evidence that the worker has contracted COVID-19. This is typically either:
 - a medical diagnosis, or
 - non-medical factual evidence where other evidence, e.g., a symptom cluster, establishes the existence of COVID-19.
2. The nature of the worker’s employment created a risk of contracting the disease significantly greater than the ordinary exposure risk of the public at large.

- Claims are adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.
- Report your illness as soon as possible, like any other injury, to WCB – [CLICK HERE](#)
- Contact UBCP/ACTRA’s Health & Safety Performer Advocate, Lori Stewart, for assistance: lori.stewart@ubcpactra.ca

3) Contact Your Benefit Plan – AFBS or MBT

- Regardless of whether you got sick from work, a family member, or the broader community, contact your benefit plan to see if there are benefits and supports available for you:

<p>AFBS Western Office - www.afbs.ca 300-380 2nd Avenue West, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1C8. Phone: 604-801-6550 or 1-866-801-6550 E-Mail: afbswest@afbs.ca</p>	<p>MBT – Member Benefits Trust - www.mbt.ca 300-380 2nd Avenue West, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1C8. Phone: 604-689-0727 ext. 2261 E-Mail: sarah@mbt.ca OR tunde@mbt.ca</p>
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4) Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)- [CLICK HERE](#)

For anyone who experiences a 'COVID 19 Event' and are unable to work at least 50% of their scheduled work week because of the need to self-isolate should apply.

- Anyone getting 'sick pay' from a production will not be eligible unless your situation extends past what the employer pays you.
- Those eligible can receive \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for a 1-week period.
- If your situation continues past 1 week, you will need to apply again.

5) Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) – [CLICK HERE](#)

Gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. If you are eligible for the CRB, you can receive \$1,000 (\$900 after taxes withheld) for a 2-week period. If your situation continues past 2 weeks, you will need to apply again. You may apply up to a total of 19 eligibility periods (38 weeks) between Sept. 27, 2020 and Sept. 25, 2021.

6) Other Government of Canada COVID-19 Benefits & Services – [CLICK HERE](#)

7) Find Federal Financial Help During Covid-19 – [CLICK HERE](#)

This is a useful site that helps determine what supports you may be eligible for by asking 6 questions.

8) Government of British Columbia – Other Supports – [CLICK HERE](#)

- [BC COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Program](#) - Workers can take 3 days of paid sick leave if they need to **stay** home because of COVID-19. Eligible to all full and part time workers. You will get your daily wage up to \$200 per day for 3 days. The program is in place until December 31, 2021 and will be replaced by a permanent Sick Leave Program starting Jan 1, 2022.
- [BC Recovery Benefit](#) – A one time payment for eligible families, single parents, or individuals. This is a one-time, direct-deposit benefit. Apply before June 30, 2021.

9) Employment Insurance:

A) For the SELF-EMPLOYED – [CLICK HERE](#)

Only if a self-employed individuals have registered for access to EI special benefits for self employed people, and you have waited 12 months from the date of your confirmed registration, may you be eligible for sickness benefits. You must also meet all of the following conditions:

- The amount of time you spend on your business has decreased by more than 40% for at least one week because of your medical condition
- You earned a minimum of \$7,555 in 2020 of self-employed earnings to receive benefits for 2021.

B) For those working OTHER JOBS that pay into the E.I. program – [CLICK HERE](#)

Temporary changes have been made to the EI program to support you during Covid 19. The following changes are in effect until September 2021, and could apply to you:

- The waiting period may be waived
- You only need 120 insured hours to qualify for benefits.
- You'll receive at least \$500 per week before taxes, but you could receive more
- You'll be eligible for up to 50 weeks of regular benefits

10) AFC (Actors Fund of Canada) – [CLICK HERE](#)

The AFC is the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry. Through compassionate and confidential support, they help Canadian entertainment professionals maintain their health, dignity and ability to work.

UBCP/ACTRA is a significant contributor to AFC and we urge our members to apply to the AFC if they are experiencing hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AFC can provide short-term emergency financial assistance for essential household bills and costs that cannot otherwise be paid. This assistance is based on immediate financial need. The AFC does not provide compensation for lost earnings.

Contact AFC - 1.877.399.8392 (Toll-Free), contact@AFChelps.ca