

# Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits

The Employment Insurance Sickness Benefit is a financial program for people unable to work because of illness or injury. The benefits can be paid for up to 15 weeks. For more about this program and current rates, visit Service Canada online.

**Contact:** 1-800-206-7218 | <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness.html>

## How to Qualify

- Regular earnings have decreased by more than 40% due to illness or injury.
- Have worked 420 insured hours in the last 52 weeks.

## How to Apply

Applications are done online through [www.Canada.ca](http://www.Canada.ca) . You should apply as soon as you stop working. Apply even if you will be receiving other funding sources.

**Record of Employment:** Employers issue Record of Employment (ROE) to provide information on work history. An ROE determines how much you are eligible to receive from Employment Insurance (EI). Employers send ROEs directly to Service Canada. You do NOT need to request copies from your employer unless your employer issues paper ROEs.

**Medical Certificate:** A certificate must be completed by your Doctor. It confirms the length of time you are unable to work. Keep a copy of it.

**Processing Time:** It takes 28 days for the application to be processed.

**Benefit Amount:** The basic benefit rate is 55% of your average insured earning up to yearly maximum insurable of \$60,300 (2022 rates). You can receive a maximum payment of \$638 per week (2022 rates). Visit their website for current rates.

## Receiving the Benefit

To continue receiving the benefit, you need to continue being unable to work. You will need to complete reports online or by phone with Service Canada every two weeks with an update. To submit reports online you will need your SIN number and a 4 - digit access code that Service Canada will mail to you. If you did not receive an access code within two-weeks,

Contact your Social Worker for more information.

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you must contact Service Canada to report over the phone or request a temporary access code. If you do not check in you will stop receiving benefits.

NOTE: As part of the Federal Budget in 2022, the government will extend EI sickness benefits from 15 to 26 weeks. This change will likely take place in summer / fall of 2022.

Always remember to keep a copy of completed application packages for future reference.

**Contact your Social Worker for more information.**

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