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COMPILED IRCC/CBSA/Border/IRB/FC/FCA/other COVID-19 policies and orders

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IRCC - Immigration application 90 day extensions; appointment cancellations until further notice; other information for applicants/persons coming to/in Canada

a. Requests by IRCC for additional documents on open applications for citizenship, permanent and temporary residence, allowing for 90 additional days:

- **Applications will not be refused for non-compliance, and all applications currently in progress at IRCC offices abroad, at case processing centres and within the Domestic Network will continue to be processed but may experience delays.**
- When **additional documentation is required** to make a decision on the application, officers should send a request letter and allow **90 days** for the applicant to respond.
- If a request for additional documentation was **previously sent** but the applicant was unable to comply within the deadline, processing officers should allow an additional 90 days for the applicant to respond. [Best practice for counsel: send a webform online to IRCC to communicate delay/request extension].
- **Biometrics: At Service Canada locations, biometric collection services have been suspended until further notice; 90 day extensions being granted.**
- ***Not specified to include PRRAs at this time (applicants are being contacted on a case by case basis to reschedule into May to be done by video, March 26, 2020).**
- **There may be delays to the application processing time.**
- **Links:** IRCC, [How COVID-19 is affecting immigration, refugees, citizenship and passport services](#) (March 30, 2020 & **April 10, 2020**)
- [General processing measures: COVID-19 program delivery](#) (March 15, 2020)

b. IRCC PR landing and Citizenship appointments cancelled until further notice:

- Some IRCC offices are currently operating with **essential staff only**.
- **Permanent residence landing** (**April 10, 2020**): As of March 15, 2020, all in-person permanent resident landing appointments are cancelled until further notice (initially cancelled until April 13, 2020). If you had a landing appointment already booked, it will be held by telephone at a new date.
- **Citizenship ceremonies and citizenship tests** (**April 10, 2020**): As of March 14, 2020, we are also cancelling all citizenship ceremonies and citizenship tests until further notice.
- Check **the information letter** or **email we sent** you about the events being cancelled (check junk folder). We'll send you a **new date and time** in the coming weeks.

c. Additional information for applicants - permanent residence, temporary residence & citizenship:

- **Common Questions Q&A - FAQs**
- IRCC, **How COVID-19 is affecting immigration, refugees, citizenship and passport services - Information for your situation** (**April 10, 2020**) *** see this link first for info*
- **Temporary residence – program delivery instructions** (**April 10, 2020**), [visitor visas](#), [eTA](#), [Study permit](#), [Work permit](#), [Withdrawal of applications](#), [Temporary residents in Canada unable to depart Canada](#), & [Learn more](#)
- **Ministerial Instructions** with respect to the processing of certain new and existing applications for temporary residence that are in effect from April 9, 2020 to April 29,

2020 (April 10, 2020)

- See also: [Permanent residence: COVID-19 program delivery](#) (Mar 15, 2020)
- Note also: [Travel restrictions and exemptions](#) (additional information below, Canada borders section)
- IRCC call centre is [unavailable until further notice](#), you can continue to contact IRCC through our [Web form](#) for inquiries.
 - *Recall: For the purposes of determining eligibility for immigration benefits/implied status, IRCC applies the date of post mark for temporary resident application; and the date received in mailroom for permanent resident applications.

d. Processing new applications:

- Canada is [suspending processing of non-essential visitor visa applications](#) (April 10, 2020)
- See: [Processing changes for visas due to COVID-19 and Ministerial Instructions with respect to the processing of certain new and existing applications for temporary residence that are in effect from April 9, 2020 to April 29, 2020 \(and may be extended\)](#) (April 10, 2020)
- IRCC remains available for critical processing of the following streams and will use alternate means for program delivery to minimize client interaction for the following categories:
 - TRP issuance for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (paper-only applications),
 - Open work permit issuance for vulnerable workers (online applications only),
 - Issuance of H&C Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs) for victims of family violence,
 - Detained PRRA processing
 - **Flagpoling:** Advised not to do at this time (non-essential service) (March 19, 2020).
 - **Source:** Senior Policy and Program Advisor, Immigration Program Guidance IRCC / Government of Canada (March 20, 2020); (see also links above).

e. Additional changes being made to allow approval of work permits for agriculture and food processing employers, under essential streams:

- A temporary modification is being made to the Labour Market Impact Assessment process for agriculture and food processing employers, as the required 2-week recruitment period will be waived for the next 6 months.
- We are increasing the maximum allowable employment duration for workers in the low-wage stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program from 1 to 2 years. This will improve flexibility and reduce the administrative burden for employers.
- To safeguard the continuity of trade, commerce, health and food security for all Canadians, temporary foreign workers in agriculture, agri-food, seafood processing and other key industries will be allowed to travel to Canada under exemptions being put in place to the air travel restrictions that took effect on March 18.
- **Link:** Update on exemptions to travel restrictions to protect Canadians and support the economy, <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/03/canada-provides-update-on-exemptions-to-travel-restrictions-to-protect-canadians-and-support-the-economy.html> (March 20, 2020)

f. IRCC Refugee claimant appointments cancelled until further notice; intake of new claims now through email:

- As of March 17, 2020 and (initially until April 13, 2020, **now until further notice**). IRCC offices will no longer be receiving refugee claims, interviewing refugee claimants or processing Refugee Protection Claimant Document renewals in person.
- As of March 15, 2020, all refugee claimant appointments were cancelled (initially until April 13, 2020, **now until further notice**). Claimants to be contacted with new appointment information.
- If you would like to make a refugee claim and **have completed** the required application forms, place all forms and documents in an envelope and deposit them in the on-site drop-off box or to an official.
- **If you would like to make a refugee claim and have not completed all the forms, please send your request by email to: IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile.IRCC@cic.gc.ca.** You will be contacted by email for next steps. Also provide us with a copy of the biographic page of your passport or a copy of another piece of identity (as the case may be). Once your request has been received, an *Acknowledgement of Claim* will be sent to you by email or mail. Once the office re-opens, you will be scheduled to return for fingerprinting and an interview.
- **Information online:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/refugees.html> (**April 10, 2020**)

COVID-19 Temporary Emergency Measures for Refugee Claims

The health and safety of our employees and clients is of utmost importance to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). From March 17 to April 13, 2020 (inclusively), this office will no longer be receiving refugee claims, interviewing refugee claimants or processing Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) renewals in person.

1) If you would like to make a refugee claim and have completed the required application forms, place all forms and documents in an envelope and deposit them in the on-site drop-off box or to an official.

2) If you would like to make a refugee claim and have not completed all the forms, please send your request by email to:

IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile.IRCC@cic.gc.ca. You will be contacted by email for next steps.

Also provide us with a copy of the biographic page of your passport or a copy of another piece of identity (as the case may be).

Once your request has been received, an *Acknowledgement of Claim* will be sent to you by email or mail. Once the office re-opens, you will be scheduled to return for fingerprinting and an interview.

Thank you for your cooperation.

- **Source:** Liliane Paré, Senior Analyst and Liaison Officer, Domestic Network, IRCC (March 17, 2020)
- **Links:** For more detailed info about the refugee email intake process, see info from Sarah Boyd: <https://immref-emerg.blogspot.com/2020/03/inland-refugee-claims->

[gta.html](#)

- [Claim refugee status from inside Canada: How to apply;](#)
- [UNHCR – Seeking asylum in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

g. UNHCR announcement regarding refugees

[Key Legal Considerations](#) on access to territory for persons in need of international protection in the context of the COVID-19 response (see paragraphs 5 to 8).

CBSA: Removals / Reporting / Immigration Holding Centres

a. Removals paused until at least April 21, 2020, effective March 17, 2020:

- Removals are paused for 3 weeks / until further notice, effective as of March 17, 2020: Canadian Council for Refugees announcement (likely to be extended, per statement by CBSA to CCR 16 April, 2020).
- The removal of serious criminal cases may continue but this would be the exception only, following a case-by-case assessment by senior staff.
- Anyone wishing to voluntarily depart will be allowed to do so on their own, where commercial options exist, and depending on the terms set out in the U.S.-Canada border closure order.
- This will be re-evaluated in the coming weeks as more information becomes available.
- **Source:** Chris Lorenz, Director General, Enforcement, Intelligence and Enforcement Branch, Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada
- **Link:** <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/cbsa-refugees-immigrants-deportations-1.5501334> (March 17, 2020, March 20, 2020)
- **UPDATE from CCR April 9, 2020**, re: Minister Blair's office: Removals are going to continue to be suspended until at least April 21. CBSA is supposed to post something to this effect on their website. Note that there are exceptions to the suspension where: 1) Person wants to voluntarily leave; 2) Person presents serious inadmissibility, but this needs to be approved by Headquarters (and depends whether they can find routing, commercial flights.) Practically speaking, though, it is not that easy to go anywhere, even if you want to.
- **Update from CCR/CBSA call April 16, 2020:** People who want to leave Canada In GTA, people who want to leave Canada can call the standard GTA enforcement number. They mentioned that most of the people who have been able to leave were going to the US. There was no information for other regions, but CBSA supposes that there are similar contact points in other regions.

b. Reporting/Appointments with CBSA:

- Clients enrolled in the VRS or in-person reporting are required to continue following the terms and conditions of their agreement with CBSA until they receive further instructions:
- No policy announcement made yet on any changes to appointments with CBSA - happening on a case by case basis (appears many people have received instructions to report by phone now, see below).
- **Source:** CBSA decision to defer removal, shared on CBA Immigration Listserve (March 17, 2020)
- **Flagpoling:** Advised not to do at this time (this is not a non-essential service) (March 19, 2020).
- **CCR - CBSA update from 16 April**
- **Port of Entry eligibility interviews for refugees:**

- **Toronto Refugee Processing Unit** (this unit processes deferred eligibility determinations for refugee claimants at Ports of Entry in Southern Ontario (Niagara Falls, Fort Erie) and some from Pearson Airport): All in-person interviews at this Unit have been cancelled. They could not say for how long. Claimants whose interview are cancelled are contacted, if CBSA has contact information on file. Claimants can also call to find out the appointment has been cancelled (CCR pointed out that in practice, calls sometimes go unanswered). The Refugee Processing Unit are beginning to think about how they will start up interviews again (at an undetermined date). They will do far fewer interviews (maybe 3 a day, compared to 33 a week before the pandemic). They will only do interviews in rooms where there is a glass divider. They will ask claimants to complete the Refugee Intake Form in advance of their interviews.
 - Deferred eligibility interviews at Pearson Airport are also all postponed.
 - For deferred eligibility interviews at other places, CBSA had previously informed us that "the Montreal, Vancouver and Winnipeg offices which process irregular claims are scheduling interviews which factors in time for the claimant to comply with the 14 days isolation period and only if the claimant is not symptomatic."
- We did not receive any information about other offices.

c. Reporting to CBSA in Mississauga:

- Notice from CBSA: individuals to report by email. Please refer all clients to this email box 'ENQUIRIES222@cbsa.gc.ca'. They are to put their name and UCI in the email. IAD reporters may attach a scan of their report and send to the same email.
- The Bond reporting centre (brc) / bond enforcement unit (beu) is currently **closed** until further notice due to covid-19
- Email (monitored regular weekdays @ 0730-1600) for: enquiries222@cbsa.gc.ca Enforcement & intelligence operations division (eiod) / greater toronto area region (gtar) 93 – 6900 airport road, mississauga, ontario l4v 1e8 / 905-405-3500
- **Reporting:** if you have provided your name & immigration id number, you will receive a response once processed.
- **Enquiries:** only urgent issues that require immediate processing will receive a response, otherwise it will not be actioned. To find out if the brc is open before attending, email this address and the auto-reply will provide up to date status.
- **Phone:** the brc phone line & voicemails will not be monitored or actioned.
- **Source:** Gary Sandhu, CBSA Inland Enforcement Officer (March 19, 2020)

d. Reporting to CBSA in Vancouver

- Though the office is still open, they have asked clients to temporarily report by telephone: Sharad Nair, Manager, Intelligence and Enforcement Branch
- Phone number to contact for reporting questions: **604-666-8769**

e. Immigration Holding Centres (IHCs):

- In the interest of the health and safety of the detained population, employees and the public, all IHCs have suspended visits from the public with the exception of counsel, Government of Canada designated representatives and interpreters similar to what has

been done at other detention facilities at the Federal and Provincial level across the country. These specific individuals will be permitted to conduct non-contact visits where available and are expected to exercise safe distancing practices where contact visits are the only option. Alternative options are available to communicate with family and friends such as the telephone that will be facilitated to the greatest extent possible. While detained in an IHC, detainees have access to medical service facilities, where nursing staff are on site 24 hours a day; a doctor and psychologist provide regular service, and a psychiatrist is on call as required.

- **Link:** See the [memorandum on the preventative](#) measures we are taking for new admissions to the IHCs for more specific information. We are constantly reviewing our processes and procedures as events unfold.
- **Source:** Chris Lorenz, Director General, Enforcement, Intelligence and Enforcement Branch, Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada (8 March 20, 2020)

CCR - CBSA update from 16 April 2020 - Detention: As of 13 April there were approximately 150 people in detention (33 in Immigration Holding Centres (IHC) - 6 in Surrey, 11 in Toronto, 19 in Laval). There are very few new admissions (many days 0 admissions, compared to 30-45 a day before the pandemic). Since the pandemic measures, people were released mostly at first from the IHCs, but more recently also from provincial facilities. It is not likely that people will be transferred from provincial facilities to IHCs because they are at a higher risk level. CBSA is looking at introducing electronic monitoring in Quebec (already in place in Ontario) – two cases are being considered.

Note: Statistics from CARL as of April 5, there was a total of 188 detainees. Provincial breakdown follows below: Alberta 17; BC 27; Manitoba 1; NB 2; NS 1; ON 93; PEI 1; QC 46;

Canadian Borders - Prohibitions on Entry from any country other than US, effective March 18, 2020; US border closure March 21, 2020.

a. Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any country other than the United States

Order Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada pursuant to s. 58 of the *Quarantine Act*, makes the annexed *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any country other than the United States)*, **PC Number: 2020-0184**, effective **March 26, 2020*** and ending on June 30, 2020.

- *Note:* previous Orders in Council, **repealed**
 - **PC Number: 2020-0162** (March 22, 2020), came into force on **March 22, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EDT and ends at noon EDT on June 30, 2020.**
 - PC Number: 2020-0157 **came into force on March 18**, at 12:00 p.m. EDT

Any foreign national (student, worker, visitor) **is prohibited from entering Canada** if they arrive from a foreign country other than the United States.

Exceptions are in place for:

- (a) a person who has been only in the US or Canada during the period of 14 days before the day on which they arrived in Canada; (~~removed~~)
- (a) an **immediate family member** of a Canadian citizen or of a *permanent resident*:
 - ie. Spouse/common law partner,
 - **dependent child/grandchildren** of person or spouse/partner, (~~added~~, s. 2 IRPR)
 - the parent or step-parent of the person or of the person's spouse/common-law; or
 - the guardian or tutor of the person.
- (b) a person who is **authorized, in writing**, by a consular officer of the Government of Canada to enter Canada for the purpose of **reuniting immediate family members**;
- (c) a **crew member** (defined in s. 101.01(1) of the *Canadian Aviation Regulations*: a person who is assigned to duty in an aircraft during flight time, or assigned to duty related to the operation of a remotely piloted aircraft system during flight time)
- (d) a *member of a crew* as defined in s. 3(1) of the *IRPR*; (~~added~~)
 - > a) means a person who is employed on a means of transportation to perform duties during a voyage or trip, or while in port, related to the operation of the means of transportation or the provision of services to passengers or to other members of the crew, but does not include (i) any person whose fare is waived in exchange for work to be performed during the voyage or trip, (ii) any person who performs maintenance or repairs under a service contract with a transporter during the voyage or trip or while the means of transportation is in Canada, (iii) any other person who is on board the means of transportation for a purpose other than to perform duties that relate to the operation of the means of transportation or to provide services to passengers or members of the crew, or (iv) any in-flight security officer; and
 - > a person ceases to be a member of a crew [if they desert or are discharged].
- (e) **Diplomats, consular officials**: a person who is exempt from the requirement to obtain a temporary resident visa under s. 190(2)(a) of the *IRPR* and the immediate family members of that person – (if they hold a passport that contains a diplomatic acceptance, a consular

- acceptance or an official acceptance issued by the Chief of Protocol for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on behalf of the Government of Canada and are a properly accredited diplomat, consular officer, representative or official of a country other than Canada, of the United Nations or any of its agencies, or of any international organization of which Canada is a member);
- (f) a person who enters Canada at the **invitation** of the Minister of Health for the purpose of **assisting in the COVID-19 coronavirus disease response**;
- (g) a person who arrives by means of an aircraft operated by the Canadian Forces or the Department of National Defence;
- (h) a member of the Canadian Forces or a **visiting force** as defined in section 2 of the *Visiting Forces Act* and the immediate family members of that member;
- (i) a French citizen who resides in **Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon** and has been only in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, the United States or Canada during the period of 14 days before the day on which they arrived in Canada;
- (j) a person or any person in a class of persons who, in the **opinion of Chief Public Health Officer** appointed under s. 6(1) of the *Public Health Agency of Canada Act*
- (i) does not pose a risk of significant harm to public health, or
 - (ii) will provide an **essential service** while in Canada (*note: still undefined*)
- (k) a person whose presence in Canada, in the opinion of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration or the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, is **in the national interest**;
- (l) a person who arrives by means of an aircraft, if the scheduled arrival in Canada according to the flight plan is ~~the~~ the day following the day on which this Order is made; (~~*previous order: before 11:59 p.m. EDT on March 18, 2020~~); (*removed**)
- (l) a person who arrives by means of a *vessel* as defined in s. 2 of the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, if the vessel departed before 00:00:01 am Eastern Daylight Time on March 21, 2020 and had a scheduled destination of Canada upon its departure; (~~added, *updated~~)
- (m) the holder of a valid **work permit or a study permit** as defined in s. 2 of IRPR; (*added**)
- (n) a person whose application for a **work permit** referred to in paragraph (m) was **approved** under the *IRPA* and who has received written notice of the approval, but who has not yet been issued the permit; (*added**)
- (o) a person whose application for a **study permit** referred to in paragraph (m) was **approved** under the *IRPA*, and who received written notice of the approval before noon, EDT on March 18, 2020, but who has not yet been issued the permit; (*added**)
- (p) a person **permitted to work in Canada as a student in a health field** under paragraph 186(p) of the *IRPR*; (*added**)
- (q) a person permitted to work in **Canada as a provider of emergency services** under paragraph 186(t) of the *IRPR*. (*added**)
- (r) a **licensed health care professional** with proof of employment in Canada; (*added**)
- (s) a person who seeks to enter Canada for the purpose of delivering, maintaining, or repairing **medically-necessary equipment** or devices; (*added**)
- (t) a person who seeks to enter Canada for the purpose of making **medical deliveries** of cells, blood and blood products, tissues, organs or other body parts, that are required for patient care in Canada during or within a reasonable period of time after the expiry of the Order; (*added**)

- (u) a person whose application for permanent residence was approved under the *IRPA*, and who received written notice of the approval before noon, EDT on March 18, 2020, but who has not yet become a permanent resident under that Act; or (*added**)
- (v) a worker in the marine transportation sector who is essential for the movement of goods by vessel, as defined in section 2 of the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, and who seeks to enter Canada for the purpose of performing their duties in that sector. (*added**)

(2) **Symptomatic Travellers** - A person referred to in paragraphs (1)(a), (c) to (i) or (k) to (o) is prohibited from entering Canada from a foreign country other than the United States if they exhibit the following signs and symptoms: (a) a fever and cough; or (b) a fever and breathing difficulties.

(3) **No entry for optional or discretionary purpose** - Despite subsection (1), a person who seeks to enter Canada for an optional or discretionary purpose, such as tourism, recreation or entertainment, is prohibited from entering Canada from a foreign country other than the US

4 This Order **does not apply to** (a) a person registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*; or (b) a **protected person** within the meaning of subsection 95(2) of the *IRPA*

Links to information:

- [How the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) is affecting immigration, refugees, citizenship and passport services: travel restrictions and exemptions](#) (March 23, 2020, updated March 26, 2020, and [April 10, 2020](#))
- **PC Number:** 2020-0184 (March 26, 2020): <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38990&lang=en>
- Transport Canada Guidance:
 - IRCC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Program delivery instructions: [Travel restriction measures general](#) (March 26, 2020); [Transport Canada measures, updates and guidance more specifics](#) (April 9, 2020)
 - COVID-19: Guidance material for air carriers managing travellers during the check-in procedure at international airports: <https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/commercial-air-services/carrying-passengers/covid-19-guidance-material-air-carriers-managing-travellers-check-in-procedure-international-airports.html> (April 8, 2020)
 - Transport Canada, new measures for Covid-19 response - [Backgrounder](#) (April 2, 2020)
- Amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* to give themselves power to prohibit entry to people barred under the *Quarantine Act* measures - in effect March 2020, but only published April 15, 2020: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-04-15/html/sor-dors55-eng.html>
- *Note:* previous Orders in Council, **repealed**
 - **PC Number:** 2020-0162 (March 22, 2020): <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38959&lang=en>
 - PC Number: 2020-0157 (March 18, 2020): <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38952&lang=en>
 - [Update on exemptions to travel restrictions to protect Canadians and support the](#)

[economy](#) (Update to repealed orders; March 27, 2020)

b. Interim Order to Prevent Certain Persons from Boarding Flights to Canada / Mandatory 14 day Self-isolation for Individuals Entering Canada

Interim Order to Prevent Certain Persons from Boarding Flights to Canada due to COVID-19, No. 3

- **Any traveller who is symptomatic** (regardless of citizenship status) **will be denied boarding** on international and transborder (US) flights to Canada for 14 days, regardless of citizenship status. See exceptions / specifications in Order.
- 16 (1) Subject to subsection (2), this Interim Order comes into force at noon Eastern Daylight Time on **March 24, 2020**.
- (2) Sections 6 to 8 comes into force at noon Eastern Daylight Time on **March 27, 2020**.
- **Links:** Interim Order <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/mediaroom/interim-order-prevent-certain-persons-boarding-flights-canada-covid-19-no-3.html>. (March 24, 2020, April 8, 2020)
- **Travel restriction measures: COVID-19 program delivery** (updated): <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/service-delivery/coronavirus/travel-restrictions.html> (March 26, 2020)

New Order Makes 14-day Self-Isolation Mandatory for Individuals Entering Canada

- Emergency Order under the *Quarantine Act* requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19
- Failure to comply with this Order is an offense under the *Quarantine Act*. Note exceptions for certain essential workers in order at s. 3, and information clarifying where a person is unable to self-isolate at s. 5.
- **Link:** Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Mandatory Isolation), No. 2 **PC Number:** 2020-0260 **Attachment** (April 14, 2020)
- Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Mandatory Isolation) PC Number: 2020-0175 <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38989&lang=en> (March 25, 2020)
- **Backgrounder:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/03/new-order-makes-self-isolation-mandatory-for-individuals-entering-canada.html> (March 25, 2020)
- **Measures announced March 18, 2020:** Transport Canada, new measures for Covid-19 response - **Backgrounder** (March 19, 2020)
 - International flights will be permitted to land only at the international airports in **Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver**, in order to enhance screening (Domestic flights and flights from U.S., Mexico, Caribbean, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon won't be affected). The change will come into effect on March 18, at 12:01 a.m. EDT.

Repealed: *Annexed Interim Order to Prevent Certain Persons from Boarding Flights to Canada due to COVID-19* (March 18, 2020, repealed March 23, 2020)

- **Any traveller who is symptomatic** (regardless of citizenship status) **will be denied**

boarding on international and transborder (US) flights to Canada for 14 days. Airlines asked to begin implementing of screening immediately by March 19, at 12:01 a.m. EDT.

- **Link:** <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/mediaroom/interim-order-prevent-certain-persons-boarding-flights-canada-covid-19.html>

c. Prohibition of non-essential travel between the United States and Canada

Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States), PC Number: 2020-0185 (s. 9 This Order has effect for the period beginning **March 26, 2020** and ending on April 21, 2020)

****To be extended by 30 days***

- At land borders, foreign nationals will be denied entry if considered to be “Non-essential travel” OR if they have been to any other country in the past 14 days OR if they show symptoms upon arrival.
- This measure does not apply to Canadian Citizens, permanent residents, First Nations, family members of these groups, or exceptions in the *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order*, above at A.
- All travellers are subject to self-isolation order above.
- Travel for the purpose of obtaining immigration services is non-essential. If you are in Canada, and are seeking to travel to the border in order to make an application for a work permit, study permit or permanent residence, you are asked to consider Federal and Provincial guidelines for self-isolation and social distancing. Do not travel to the border for these services until the further notice.

Prohibition where signs and symptoms: 2(1) A foreign national is prohibited from entering Canada from the United States if they exhibit the following signs and symptoms: **(a)** a fever and cough; or **(b)** a fever and breathing difficulties. **Non-application to refugee claimants: (2)** Subsection (1) does not apply to persons referred to in s. 4(2) who seek to enter Canada from the United States **for the purpose of making a claim for refugee protection.**

Prohibition — optional or discretionary purpose: 3 A foreign national is prohibited from entering Canada from the United States if they seek to enter for an optional or discretionary purpose, such as tourism, recreation or entertainment.

Prohibition — been outside Canada or the United States: 4(1) A foreign national who seeks to enter Canada from the United States for a purpose other than an optional or discretionary purpose is nonetheless prohibited from entering Canada if they have been outside Canada and the United States during the period of 14 days before the day on which they seek to enter Canada.

- **Exceptions: (2)** Subsection (1) does not apply to persons **(a)** referred to in 5(2) who seeks to enter Canada from the US to make a claim for refugee protection; or **(b)** referred to in subsection 3(1) of the *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any country other than the United States)*.

Prohibition on claim for refugee protection: 5(1) A foreign national is prohibited from entering Canada from the United States for the purpose of making a claim for refugee protection.

- **Exceptions: (2)** Subsection (1) **does not apply** to **(a) a citizen of the US;** **(b) a stateless**

habitual resident of the US; (c) a mother, father or legal guardian within the meaning of the *IRPR* of a person who (i) has not attained the age of 18 years, (ii) is a citizen of the US, and (iii) who seeks to enter Canada for the purpose of making a claim for refugee protection; or (d) a person who (i) has not attained the age of 18 years and is not accompanied by their mother, father or legal guardian within the meaning of the *IRPR*, (ii) has neither a spouse nor a common-law partner within the meaning of those Regulations, and (iii) has neither a mother or father nor a legal guardian within the meaning of those Regulations in the US.

- **Note: Most refugee crossing into Canada regularly or irregularly** will now be turned back to the US when they reach the Canadian border (March 20, 2020): <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/refugees.html>

Non-application of order: 6(1) This Order does not apply to (a) a person registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*; (b) a person who, in the **opinion of the Chief Public Health Officer** appointed under subsection 6(1) of the *Public Health Agency of Canada Act*, does not pose a risk of significant harm to public health; or (c) a **protected person** within the meaning of subsection 95(2) of the *IRPA*.

Powers and obligations: 7 For greater certainty, this Order does not affect any of the powers and obligations set out in the *Quarantine Act*.

Links to information:

- Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States) **PC Number: 2020-0185** (March 26, 2020): <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38991&lang=en>
- Amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* to give themselves power to prohibit entry to people barred under the *Quarantine Act* measures - in effect March 2020, but only published April 15, 2020: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-04-15/html/sor-dors55-eng.html>
- **Repealed March 26, 2020:** Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Prohibition of Entry from the United States) PC Number: 2020-0161 (March 20, 2020), effective 00:01 am EDT on March 21, 2020, ending 00:01 am EDT April 21, 2020: <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38958&lang=en>
- U.S.-Canada Joint Initiative: Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing the U.S.-Canada Border for Non-Essential Purposes (March 20, 2020): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/03/us-canada-joint-initiative-temporary-restriction-of-travelers-crossing-the-us-canada-border-for-non-essential-purposes.html>

d. Additional Information on Enforcement Measures in Canada

- **Explainer - Declarations of Emergency and extraordinary powers:** <https://adriennesmithlaw.com/explainer-declarations-of-emergency-and-extraordinary-powers/> ; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-social-distancing->

[penalties-state-of-emergency-1.5508543](#)

IRB Hearings, suspended until further notice, with 30 days notice to be given before resumptions/ apart from detention reviews, detained admissibility

a. IRB Practice notice – Special measures due to covid-19 (April 7, 2020)

[Practice notice – Special measures due to covid-19](#) - The IRB announces the following special measures, which apply to all four of its Divisions, except where noted:

1) Suspension of in-person hearings: The IRB is suspending, until further notice, all in-person hearings and mediations, except detention reviews and some admissibility **hearings involving detained persons.**

2) IRB Notice Before Holding a Hearing: The IRB will provide at least 30 days’ notice (“The Resumption Notice”) before proceeding with a previously scheduled in-person hearing or scheduling a new in-person hearing, except detention reviews and some admissibility hearings involving detained persons, subject to the following exceptions:

- i. Matters which have already had a hearing on the merits and must be rescheduled for a resumption;
- ii. Matters which were scheduled to be heard the week after IRB hearings were first suspended, being those matters initially scheduled from March 17 to March 24, 2020 inclusive;
- iii. Matters where the person who is the subject of the proceedings is detained;
- iv. Urgent or exceptional matters, as determined by the IRB, such as those involving unaccompanied minors or vulnerable persons who require priority processing; and
- v. **Matters where the parties consent to proceeding with less than 30 days’ notice.**

3) Application of IRB Rules: When hearings resume, the IRB will be flexible with respect to the application of its rules where the parties have difficulty complying with them due to the COVID-19 situation. However, the IRB seeks the parties’ and their counsels’ cooperation to comply with the requirements of the rules of the Divisions, to the extent possible, to ensure the proceedings will proceed in a fair and timely manner.

4) Time Limits: Where a Division has ordered that a document be provided to it, for example submissions or further evidence, and the time limit for providing that document expired on or after March 16, 2020, that time limit is extended until 30 days after posting The Resumption Notice. In addition, the following Division-specific time limits have been extended:

- The Refugee Protection Division (RPD) has extended the time limit for filing the Basis of Claim Form, as set out in its [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing the Basis of Claim Form](#).
- The Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) has extended the time limit for filing and perfecting an appeal, as set out in its [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Perfecting an Appeal](#).
- The Immigration Appeal Division (IAD) has extended the time limit for filing a Notice of Appeal, as set out in its [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing a Notice of Appeal](#).

5) Communicating with Divisions: The Immigration Division is now accepting communication by email, as set out in its [Practice Notice: Communicating by email at the Immigration Division \(ID\)](#). The Immigration Appeal Division recently released its [Practice Notice: Communicating by email at the Immigration Appeal Division](#). The RPD continues to accept documents by Canada Post e-Post Divisions are exploring various options to facilitate communication and will provide updates as and when available.

- **RPD Epost instructions:** <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/refugee-claims/Pages/eSub-instruct.aspx>
- Refugee Protection Division (“RPD”), Refugee Appeal Division (“RAD”) and Immigration Appeal Divisions (“IAD”), correspondence received by mail, fax, email or epost will be actioned before hearings resume.
- The IRB has issued a new Practice Notice regarding the use of electronic signatures by members of the ID to sign their reasons for decision and orders: see [news item](#).

Previous Practice Notices:

- **Previous 2:** In response to the ongoing pandemic, the IRB has published a new [Advisory Notice](#) extending the suspension of all in-person hearings and mediations, other than detention reviews, **until at least Monday, May 4, 2020**. The IRB is actively monitoring events and will continue to update any further changes as soon as possible (March 20, 2020);
- **Previous 1:** All in person hearings and mediations, other than detention reviews, are postponed effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Sunday, April 5, 2020. An update to this notice will be communicated on or before Sunday, April 5, 2020. Postponed hearings and mediations will be rescheduled promptly upon the resumption of full IRB operations, [IRB measures COVID-19](#) (March 16, 2020).

b. IRB front office closures and filing information:

- **IRB Front office closures:** IRB front offices are closed. Effective immediately, in-person correspondence (hand-delivery) is no longer accepted. (March 18, 2020)
- **Link:** IRB [website](#)

c. Increased flexibility and temporary procedural accommodations at the RPD and RAD:

- We are granting temporary extensions of time limits as outlined in the [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing a Basis of Claim Form](#): "If your time limit for filing the BOC Form with the RPD falls between February 15 and April 15, 2020 inclusive, the deadline is extended to May 30, 2020."
- and the [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension for Time Limits for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Perfecting an Appeal](#): "If your time limit for filing a notice of appeal falls between January 1, 2020 and April 15, 2020 inclusive, the deadline is extended to May 30, 2020. If your time limit for perfecting an appeal falls between January 1, 2020 and April 15, 2020 inclusive, the deadline is extended to May 30, 2020."
- In addition to the above, the IRB will be considering all COVID related motions and applications with flexibility.
- **Link:** [IRB measures related to COVID-19](#) (March 16, 2020)

d. Detention reviews measures at the Immigration Division:

- Minimizing the transportation of detained individuals to IRB premises
- Establishing a means by which other hearing participants, for example counsel, hearings officers and bondspersons, can take part in hearings by telephone or video-conferencing should they wish to do so.
- Continuing to implementing active health screening procedures at each hearing site.
- Parties encouraged to submit documents electronically (*see above* for filing info).
- **Link:** [IRB measures related to COVID-19](#) (March 16, 2020)
- For **Immigration Division (“ID”)** which is continuing to hold detention reviews, please continue to send your correspondence by fax to the following numbers: Central Region: 416-744-4274 | Eastern: 514 496 2252 | Western: 604-666-7082. If unable to send by fax, please contact the registry in your [region](#) to discuss an alternate delivery method.

Central Region only:

- Now conducting all detention reviews in Central Region through teleconference calls, and the ID’s front office (duty desk) at 385 Rexdale Blvd will be closing effective Thursday, March 19, 2020.
- We ask that counsel, witnesses and potential bondspersons notify Registry by fax, in advance, of the phone number where we can reach you for the hearing. Our fax number is 416.744.4274. If fax notice is not possible, or it is the day of the hearing, please contact our Registry at 1.833.222.0408. We are making every effort to connect everyone by phone, and receiving information in advance will help us facilitate those connections.
- **Source:** Aviva Basma, Assistant Deputy Chairperson].
- **Link:** See this [detailed notice](#) (March 18, 2020); Check the IRB [website](#) for updates.

Western Region:

- Interpreters, CBSA Hearings Officers, and most members are appearing by phone now. The detained clients are either by phone or video as well. The ID’s preference is for counsel to appear by phone. To do so, let the ID know the number they should call to teleconference you into the hearing, and your email / fax for disclosure.
- The number called to arrange this is 604-666-3124 and email is IRB.Western_ID_DCO-Quest_SI_ODC.CISR@irb-cisr.gc.ca.
- Most CBSA Officers are working remotely as of March 19, 2020. It is best to email them at firstname.lastname@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca. One Hearings Officer is scheduled per day to come into the office to deal with new 48 hour detention reviews.
- To speak with clients ahead of the hearing, you can call the IHC at 604-775-5797 to arrange to speak with the client or at FRCC at (604) 462-9313, or if available Debra Soltys: 604-462-5188, Debra.Soltys@gov.bc.ca.
- **Source:** Legal Services Society, Duty Counsel program.

**Detention Review COVID-19 arguments resources / caselaw dropbox folder:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/glnocv1qj8tscdp/AABdxGIYUfTz6QaUmbu_OARlA?dl=0

Federal Court/Federal Court of Appeal Matters, adjourned through to **May 15, 2020** (updated *April 5, 2020)

A. Federal Court

General Sittings / Hearings: All Federal Court hearings/deadlines scheduled **between March 16, 2020 through to May 15, 2020** (previously April 17, 2020) (“the Suspension Period”) are suspended/ adjourned *sine die*, subject to the caveat and the three exceptions discussed below. The principal changes addressed in the new [Practice Direction and Order](#) (COVID-19) (April 5, 2020) include:

1. An extension of the previously announced Suspension Period until May 15, 2020.
2. Recommencement of case management hearings by telephone and videoconference, for matters being specially managed by a Case Management Judge.
3. An expansion of the scope of matters that may be dealt with on consent by telephone or video conference, or in writing.
4. The process for **rescheduling hearings** that have been adjourned or may be adjourned as a result of the Suspension Period.
5. **The waiver of certain filing fees**, effective April 6, 2020, until the end of the Suspension Period and the postponement of the requirement to pay certain other filing fees.
6. The process to file confidential material.
7. **The deemed consent to service of documents electronically.**
8. **The commissioning of affidavits remotely.**
9. The Court’s commitment to dealing, this summer, with matters that are adjourned during the Suspension Period. To this end, **the conventional two-week period of reduced weeks in the summer will be cancelled.**
10. Suspension of the requirement to gown.

Suspension of Timelines: During the Suspension Period, and subject to the caveat and the three exceptions discussed below, the running of all timelines established pursuant to the following instruments is suspended:

- Orders and Directions of the Court made prior to March 16, 2020;
- the Federal Courts Rules;
- the Federal Courts Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection Rules;
- s. 18.1(2) of the Federal Courts Act;
- s. 72(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; and
- s. 22.1(2) of the Citizenship Act.

The intent is that a party will pick up from where things stood before the Suspension Period, as if the intervening period never existed. So, for example, if that party had three days prior to March 16th to do something, the party will have those same three days at the end of the Suspension Period. The other party would then have the period originally contemplated after that to complete its next step, with all remaining steps in the litigation similarly and sequentially extended. Any deadlines that were to expire on a specific day are equally extended by the duration of the Suspension Period. A party who requires an extension of a deadline may make an informal request for such extension.

Timelines set out in any Orders or Directions issued since (and including) March 16, 2020 remain in effect. In issuing such Orders or Directions, the Court was mindful of the current

- Eg. Any notices to start an AFLJR will be due April 17 + __ days ~ however many days into the extension period it fell (for example, I have a notice due April 24, which is 9 days into the period, so it will be due **April 17 + 9 days**)
- For an applicant's record otherwise due March 24th, my deadline would also be April 17 + 9 days.
- For a notice filed on March 24 (even though you don't need to because of the Suspension Period), the record would be due April 17 + 30 days.

Caveat: Deadlines for commencing actions, appeals or applications under other statutes continue to apply and cannot be extended or varied unless permitted under the terms of and in the manner prescribed by those statutes.

Suspension of Hearings: Subject to the exceptions described in the notice, all hearings that had previously been scheduled to take place during the Suspension Period are adjourned *sine die* and all General Sittings are cancelled. Parties are responsible for contacting the Court to request that their matters be placed upon a General Sittings list once the Suspension Period is lifted and General Sittings have resumed. **Exception 1: Urgent or exceptional matters, Exception 2: Case management hearings, Exception 3: By request of a party.**

Rescheduling: If, by May 1, 2020, the Court has not extended the Suspension Period beyond May 15, 2020, parties shall provide the Judicial Administrator with their mutual dates of non-availability up to December 18, 2020, for the rescheduling of hearings that have been adjourned, or may be adjourned as a result of the Suspension Period, by email to HEARINGS-AUDIENCES@FCT-CF.CA. Such dates should be provided no sooner than May 1, 2020 and no later than the close of business on May 29, 2020. For Immigration or Citizenship proceedings for which leave was granted and a hearing was scheduled outside the Suspension Period, the Court encourages parties to consent to an alternate timeline for the filing of outstanding documents, as contemplated by the last paragraph of the leave granted order.

Court Fees: Effective April 6, 2020, for the duration of the Suspension Period, all fees payable on filing or issuance under item 1 of Tariff A of the Federal Courts Rules are waived (fees relating to a proceeding against the Crown, to be paid only after registry operations return to normal).

Electronic Filing and Service of Documents: Parties should use the Court's [E-filing portal](#) to file documents. On an exceptional basis, where parties cannot access the E-filing portal and the filing of documents is urgent, parties may file by e-mail (max 25 MB) at FC_Reception_CF@cas-satj.gc.ca. Parties who file documents electronically during the Suspension Period are exempted from any requirement to file paper copies. Parties are reminded of the importance of (i) properly numbering the pages of any documents or packages of documents filed electronically, and (ii) referring to such page numbers in their written and oral submissions.

Service of Documents between Parties: A party may serve a document electronically pursuant to Federal Courts Rules 139(1)(e), 141, 143, and 146(1) and forms 141A (Notice of consent to electronic service), 141B (withdrawal of consent to electronic service), and form 146A (affidavit of service). **Deemed consent:** If a party has provided an electronic address on a document filed in Court, that party shall be deemed, for the duration of the Suspension Period, to have consented pursuant to Rule 141 to electronic service of documents at that electronic address.

Personal service of an originating document filed electronically by a party other than the Crown in proceedings brought under the IRPA or the Citizenship Act **shall be effected by the Registry on the Crown / AG / any Minister** in accordance with the practice under Rule 133 of the Federal Courts Rules, thereby relieving an applicant from the requirement to effect personal service.

Commissioning of Affidavits: Pursuant to s. 53(2) of the Federal Courts Act, and subject always to the discretion of the Court to apply the best evidence requirements, affidavits sworn or affirmed remotely using modes deemed acceptable in any Superior Court of any province will be accepted for filing during the Suspension Period. For greater certainty, all affidavits must be sworn. During the Suspension Period, a scanned version of an affidavit may be accepted for filing, provided that the original version is filed with the Court within two weeks (14 days) of the resumption of its regular operations.

Links to information:

- **Updated** Federal Courts [Practice Direction and Order](#) (COVID-19) (**April 5, 2020**)
- Federal Courts [Practice Direction and Order](#) (COVID-19) and [FAQ / amendment](#) (March 18, 2020, March 20, 2020)
- Check the Federal Court [website](#) regularly for updates, and Federal Court on Twitter (@FedCourt_CAN_en),
- Inquiries may be made to the Registry at FC_Reception_CF@cas-satj.gc.ca or by phone at 1- 800-663-2096 (or see Telephone List for local office telephone numbers).

B. Federal Court of Appeal

1. In accordance with Rule 55 of the Federal Courts Rules, S.O.R./98-106 and the plenary power of the Court to regulate proceedings before it, rule 6 is varied in all proceedings so that **for the purposes of the calculating time under the Rules or under any direction or court order, the period March 16, 2020 to May 15, 2020** (inclusive (“the suspension period”, initially was until April 17, 2020) **shall not be included in the calculation of time.** In other words, time will not run during the suspension period.

2. Documents may still be filed during the suspension period. However, because of the reduced Registry staff onsite during this period, this is not encouraged.

Links to information:

- Check the Federal Court of Appeal’s [website](#) regularly for updates.

Federal Court of Appeal [Practice Direction and Order](#) (COVID-19) (March 20, 2020) and [Extension of suspension period and additional measures taken](#) (April 2, 2020)

C. Electronic Service to the Department of Justice:

- Must obtain consent from the lawyer assigned to serve electronically (<https://www.fct-cf.gc.ca/en/pages/online-access/e-filing>)
- In Toronto, where consent is given, can serve application records to: TORJUSTICEIMMIGRATION@justice.gc.ca

Provincial Court Matters, rescheduling to various dates

British Columbia

BC Provincial Court: The Provincial Court of British Columbia has issued a Notice to the Profession and Public that it has suspended regular operations at all of its locations and that some court locations have been [closed](#). Urgent matters will proceed in “Hub Court” locations. For more information about Hub locations and the procedures for determining urgent matters, read the full Notice [here](#). See also: <https://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/COVID19> and for a list of all provincial courts closed due to COVID, [click here](#).

BC Supreme Court: See for various practice directions relating to Court closures, trial and hearing adjournments: https://www.bccourts.ca/supreme_court/

BC Court of Appeal: The BC Court of Appeal issued a [direction](#) * requesting that all appeals which do not urgently need to be heard be rescheduled.

Execution of affidavits, BC Law Society

- On March 20, 2020, the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and the Provincial Court of British Columbia issued Notices regarding affidavits for use in Civil and Family Proceedings that set out a process for commissioning affidavits in urgent cases where it is not possible, or is medically unsafe, for the deponent of an affidavit to attend physically before a commissioner. The full Notices can be found in the directives linked below:
- [Court of Appeal for British Columbia](#)
- [Supreme Court of British Columbia](#)
- [Provincial Court of British Columbia](#)
- Where lawyers reasonably determine that circumstances require virtual commissioning of an affidavit and follow the procedure in the Court’s notice, the Law Society will consider the requirement that the deponent be physically present before the lawyers, set out in Appendix A 1(a) of the *Code of Professional Conduct*, to have been met.

Restrictions For Legal Counsel Visits At Correctional Centres / Youth Facilities

- Letters from Provincial Directors for adult corrections and youth custody:
https://cbabc.org/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_bc/pdf/ACD-Letter-to-Defense-counsel-re-restrictions-on-visits-by-lawyers-due-to-COVID-19-20200317.pdf
- https://cbabc.org/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_bc/pdf/Letter-from-D-Halter-to-legal-counsel-re-counsel-visits-at-youth-detention-facilities-March-27-2020.pdf

Ontario

Ontario Superior Court: The Superior Court of Justice issued this [notice](#) suspending all regular operations, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and until further notice; see the notice for details.

- Updated Notice April 3, 2020: <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/scj/covid-19-suspension-crim/>

Execution of affidavits, Law Society of Ontario:

- See the most recent position on the matter here (far down the page, the 7th to last FAQ): <https://lso.ca/news-events/news/corporate-statement-re-covid-19>
- The Law Society's position and recommendations on virtual commissioning can be found here: <https://lso.ca/lawyers/practice-supports-and-resources/topics/the-lawyer-client-relationship/commissioner-for-taking-affidavits-and-notary-publ/virtual-commissioning>

Provincial Services and Economic Measures

B.C. health care / medical services plan (“MSP”) measures due to the COVID-19:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents?bcgovtm=20200319_GCPE_AM_COVID_4_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION

- New wording on [website](#) about continued coverage during implied status for those who request it: “For those who are in the province with an expired work or study permit, a period of temporary MSP coverage **may** be provided.”
- And in the [FAQs Q2: What if my temporary permits have expired and I no longer have MSP coverage?](#) In response to COVID-19, individuals who are currently in B.C., who were previously enrolled in MSP as a deemed resident, and their MSP has expired, may be provided temporary MSP coverage. Individuals should contact Health Insurance BC to request this temporary coverage. Health Insurance BC Toll-free: 1 800 663-7100 Lower Mainland: 604 683-7151 This may include individuals who have applied for a new work or study permit but it has yet to arrive. In these circumstances temporary coverage will be granted until July 31, 2020. [Note: Person phoned, and office is saying they are waiting for the order to be issued to reflect this]
- **Update of service changes in BC re: advocates/legal resources:**
<https://www.povnet.org/covid19-service-changes>

Ontario is waiving the three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage. Additionally, the province will cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage:

<https://news.ontario.ca/mohlrc/en/2020/03/ontario-expands-coverage-for-care.html>

Support for workers and businesses through Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response

Plan: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/18/prime-minister-announces-more-support-workers-and-businesses-through>.

EI webinar for immigration practitioners on basic EI eligibility questions and those specific to temporary foreign workers:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EaZL4MOwUUY&feature=youtu.be#menu>

By Catherine McAteer/ Rui Chen. Note caveats re: legal advice provided online for general use

Employment law related rights related to COVID-19, Blog Posts

(Canada/BC): <https://www.mooreedgarlyster.com/blog>

Covid health info in multiple languages: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-15> ; <https://accesss.net/informations-multilingues-sur-le-coronavirus-covid-19/> ; <https://www.healthdesignstudio.ca/> (*March 26, 2020)

Information on states of emergency and emergency measures in place across Canada:

<https://citywatchcanada.ca/>