

# USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

March 20, 2020

COVID-19 EI Update

## COVID- 19 Employment Insurance (EI) Changes

On March 18, 2020 the federal government released their COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. Generally, regular EI benefits still apply and are not impacted.

- Qualifying for EI still depends on individual circumstances such as regional rate of unemployment and number of hours worked in last 52 weeks.
- The maximum amount paid out for EI is \$573 a week.
- **People should apply for EI as soon as possible.** Applying more than four weeks after the last day worked risks losing access to the benefits.
- The government is waiving the medical certificate requirement and one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim EI sickness benefit (this is temporary and took effect March 15, 2020).
- **The waiting period for regular benefits has not been waived at this time.**

We encourage any workers quarantined to apply for Medical EI. As you can imagine the system will be extremely stressed due to reduced government staff and increased utilization. The sooner your application is received the better.

The above information has been extracted from government websites and press releases. We encourage workers to confirm specific details regarding their entitlement to EI benefits directly with EI when applying. Members should hope for the best but plan for this crisis to last an extended period. Starting and maintaining an EI claim will ensure you are eligible for EI benefits when needed.

**Please share this information with your co-workers and encourage them to join our Local Union Text Blast System (instructions below)**

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**JOIN THE LOCAL TEXT BLAST LIST SEND AN EMAIL OR CALL:**

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