



Nancy Chahwan
Chief Human Resources Officer

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Subject: COVID-19: Temporary Public Service Health Care Plan changes

To: Deputy Heads, Heads of Agencies (including separate Employers), Presidents of Regional Federal Councils, Heads of Human Resources

Colleagues,

Making sure that our employees have support for the health care they need during this pandemic is very important. For this reason, today the Government of Canada has implemented temporary changes to the [Public Service Health Care Plan \(PSHCP\)](#). These new measures are designed to help plan members and their eligible dependents access healthcare benefits, while at the same time, minimizing their social interaction with healthcare professionals as well as supporting the social distancing directive.

In summary, these measures include:

- Extending travel emergency benefits
- Relaxing the dispensing limit for maintenance medications and allow the pharmacist to exercise professional discretion whether to dispense the medication sooner
- Accepting claims for social workers as mental health professionals
- Removing the requirement for a prescription for mental health and physiotherapy services

These temporary changes will be in effect until **April 24, 2020**, with the possibility of being extended.

More information on these changes is available on canada.ca

Thank you again for your support and keeping your employees informed of these important changes.

Nancy Chahwan

Chief Human Resources Officer
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat / Government of Canada