



# USW-Coastal Forest Industry Health & Welfare Plan

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## MEMORANDUM

From: Board of Trustees  
To: Plan Members and Participating Employers  
Date: March 26, 2020  
**Re: Impact of COVID-19 on Weekly Indemnity Benefits**

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The purpose of this memo is to provide some Plan specific updates related to COVID-19. This notice, any subsequent updates, as well as a link to Pacific Blue Cross' COVID-19 Resource Centre can be found on the Plan website: <http://uswfi1.planoffice.ca/>

The Board of Trustees have endorsed the following with respect to Weekly Indemnity (WI) claims:

- The five (5) day waiting period, which is normally applicable to claims due to illness, will be waived on approved COVID-19 claims.
- The Attending Physician's Statement, which is normally required to substantiate and initiate a WI claim, will be waived and replaced with a "Plan Member Confirmation of Illness Form".
- Upon adjudication approval, WI benefits for a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 illness will be payable for a 14-day period.
- Provision of benefits beyond the 14-day period will be contingent on medical validation and associated adjudicative processes.

Please refer to the additional information provided regarding the process to submit a WI claim.

Members who do not qualify for WI benefits will be referred to Employment Insurance (EI). Please refer to the additional information provided regarding Government Benefits.

The Board of Trustees will be closely monitoring all aspects of Plan operations, including related claims experience, for the potential need to adjust this approach as events continue to evolve.