

Alberta

Committed to being physically present in Alberta for at least 183 days in a 12 month period (NOTE: Periods of temporary absence will be counted as being physically present in Alberta. If you are planning to be away for more than six months, contact our office.)

Alberta residents who travel within Canada and return to Alberta within 12 months, or who leave the country and return within six months, retain health coverage. Travellers leaving Alberta for longer may apply to the Alberta Health and Wellness Department for a 24-month extension of coverage. To remain eligible, an individual must maintain residence in Alberta, which normally means being physically present in the province for at least 183 days in a 12-month period. An individual who is away longer may apply to demonstrate permanent residency by satisfying the government's criteria, such as having maintained economic, personal and social ties in Alberta and not having established permanent residence elsewhere.

Telephone: 780-427-1432 (Edmonton)
Toll-free in Alberta, dial 310-0000 then 780-427-1432.

Fax: 780-422-0102 (Edmonton)

Mail: Alberta Health and Wellness
Attention: Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan
PO Box 1360, Station Main
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2N3

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/>

British Columbia:

If you are away from B.C. during a temporary absence of up to 6 months in a calendar year for work or vacation, you do not need to advise MSP. To retain health coverage, British Columbians must be physically present in the province at least six months in a calendar year and continue to maintain their residence in B.C. With prior approval of the Medical Services Commission, a British Columbian may leave the province for up to 12 consecutive months and still receive health coverage. This special approval may be granted only once every five years, and the individual must have been physically present in Canada for at least six of the 12 months preceding departure. A British Columbian who loses coverage must undergo a waiting period of undetermined length before coverage is reinstated. In addition you may be eligible to receive coverage for up to 24 months during a temporary absence from B.C.. Contact Health Insurance BC to determine your eligibility for extended work or vacation coverage.

Telephone: Vancouver: 604 683-7151
Other : Toll-free: 1 800 663-7100

Fax: 250 405-3595

Mail: Medical Services Plan
PO Box 9035 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E3

<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/>

Manitoba:

To remain eligible for Manitoba Health coverage, you must be present in Manitoba for at least 183 days of the calendar year, which do not have to be consecutive. In this event, apply for a term certificate. If you plan to be away for longer than 90 days, please contact Manitoba Health for more information.

Permanent residents of Manitoba retain health coverage if they remain in the province for 183 days (six months) of the calendar year. These days do not have to be consecutive. In addition, policy documents indicate that additional travel of up to 30 days during the remaining six months of the year will not result in the loss of health benefits.

Manitobans who wish to be away for more than three months need to inform the government of their expected dates of departure and return. Upon this notification they will receive a term certificate confirming coverage from Manitoba Health.

Telephone: (204) 786-7101
Toll free: 1-800-392-1207

Fax: (204) 783-2171

Mail: Registration Manitoba Health
300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3M9

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/>

New Brunswick

Permanent New Brunswick residents who plan to be temporarily absent from New Brunswick for a vacation, visit or business trip, remain insured during their absence, provided they live in New Brunswick for at least six months (183 days – consecutive or not) during a 12 month period. You may be temporarily absent from New Brunswick for up to 182 days (consecutive or not) in a 12 month period without it affecting your coverage, provided your intention is to resume permanent residence in New Brunswick. If you need to be absent for more than 182 days, you must submit a written request to New Brunswick Medicare asking that your eligibility be maintained during your absence. Your eligibility can be extended for up to 12 months beyond the original 182 days. This type of request can only be granted once every three years.

Telephone: (506) 457-4800

Fax: (506) 453-5243

Mail: Mailing Address:
New Brunswick Health
HSBC Place
P. O. Box 5100
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5G8

Physical Address:
New Brunswick Health
HSBC Place
520 King Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 6G3

<http://www.gnb.ca/0051/0394/index-e.asp>

Newfoundland & Labrador

To ensure that coverage remains intact while outside Newfoundland and Labrador, an Out-of-Province Coverage Certificate should be obtained from MCP. This provides a maximum of twelve months' out-of-province coverage to eligible beneficiaries, with qualifications. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians must reside in the province for at least four consecutive months in each 12-month period to maintain health benefits. A provincial resident may retain coverage while absent from the province for up to 12 consecutive months by obtaining an Out-of-Province Coverage Certificate from the Medical Care Plan. Immediately following the return from this 12-month trip, the traveller must remain in Newfoundland and Labrador for four consecutive months. Subsequent Out-of-Province Coverage Certificates will only be issued for up to eight months. This provides a maximum of twelve months' out-of-province coverage to eligible beneficiaries. Travellers leaving for vacation purposes may receive an initial Out-of-Province Coverage Certificate for up to twelve months coverage, however the normal four-month residency requirement must be met immediately following their return to Newfoundland and Labrador. Additional Out-of-Province Coverage Certificates will only be issued to provide up to eight months' coverage.

Telephone: St. John's/Avalon Region: 709-758-1500
Or Toll-Free 1-866-449-4459
All other areas, including Labrador: 709-292-4059
Or Toll-Free 1-800-563-1557

Fax: St. John's: 709-758-1694 All other areas: 709-292-4052

Mail: Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Care Plan
P.O. Box 8700
57 Margaret's Place
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/mcp/>

North West Territories

All permanent residents of the NWT are eligible for coverage. "Permanent resident" means a person legally entitled to remain in Canada who makes his/her home in (and is ordinarily present in) the NWT for six months of the year, but does not include a tourist, transient or visitor to the NWT. "Makes his/her home" is defined as where the person receives mail, keeps personal property, and spends the majority of time. Should an individual leave the NWT under the conditions of temporary absence, the resident must remain in the NWT for six cumulative months after returning to the NWT. The Temporary Absence Form is to be completed if you will be out of the NWT for more than 3 months (90 days) for medical, work or school. http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/pdf/forms/benefits/english/temporary_absence_form.pdf

Upon return to the Northwest Territories, they must remain in the N.W.T. for six cumulative months in order to maintain their health benefits. Legislation contradicts this information and creates confusion for travellers. *The Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* states that "the insured person is entitled to in-patient and out-patient insured services outside the Territories during a period of 12 months of continuous absence from the Territories."

Telephone: 867-777-7408 / 867-777-7411

Fax: 867-777-3197

Mail: Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories
Bag #9
Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0

http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/health_care_plan/default.htm

Nova Scotia

Once deemed a resident for MSI coverage and ordinarily present (physically present in Nova Scotia for 183 days in every calendar year), you may retain coverage while temporarily absent for up to one year, provided you intend to return permanently to Nova Scotia.

If you will be temporarily absent from the province for more than three months (short term absences under 30 days are not monitored), you should contact the MSI Registration Department at (902) 496-7008 or 1-800-563-8880 (toll free within Nova Scotia) advising:

- the date you intend to leave Nova Scotia
- the reason for your absence
- your intended return date
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However, if your eligibility is in question, the Department of Health/MSI have the authority to review total absences from Nova Scotia and request a residency declaration to be completed.

Telephone: 1-902-424-5818
1-800-387-6665 (toll-free in Nova Scotia)

Fax: 1-902-424-0730

Mail: Mailing Address:
Department of Health
PO Box 488
Halifax, NS
B3J 2R8

Street Address:
Joseph Howe Building
1690 Hollis Street
Halifax Nova Scotia

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/msi/>

Nunavut

Nunavut requires no minimum period of presence within the territory in order to qualify for health benefits. The only restriction is that a resident must not be absent for longer than 12 consecutive months. This policy provides residents of Nunavut, along with the residents of the Yukon, with greater freedom to travel than residents from any other Canadian jurisdiction.

Telephone: 867-975-5902
Or Toll-Free 1-800-661-0833

Fax: 867-975-5930

Mail: Program Officer, NIHB/Nunavut
Northern Secretariat
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
60 Queen Street PL 3914A
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Y 5Y7

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/health/>

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan residents are permitted to be out of the province for up to six months of any year, while still maintaining health coverage. In addition, an individual who is ordinarily physically present in Saskatchewan may leave Saskatchewan on vacation for up to 12 consecutive months and still maintain coverage by proving to the satisfaction of the government that he or she intends to return to Saskatchewan following the absence. Absences that do not qualify as “long-term” or “extended” will not count toward the six-month ordinary limit on time outside the province. The terms “long-term” and “extended” are not clearly defined. Canadian travelers should be able to understand the rules and know whether their health coverage is at risk. If for example “longterm” and “extended” absences were defined as those of more than one consecutive month, then Saskatchewan’s policy would be among the most travel-friendly in Canada.

Telephone: 306-787-0146
Or Toll-Free 1-800-667-7766

Fax:

Mail: Saskatchewan Health
T.C. Douglas Building
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6

<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/health-benefits>

Ontario

Ontario residents are eligible for provincially funded health coverage (OHIP). To be eligible for Ontario health coverage you must make your permanent and principal home in Ontario, and be physically present in Ontario 153 days in any 12-month period.

Ontarians can keep their health benefits and be out of the province for up to 212 days (approximately seven months) in any 12-month period. While this is one of the longest allowable travel periods in Canada, Ontario does not have a policy that allows residents to travel the rest of the year without risk of losing their benefits. The government does, however, have the discretion to approve continued coverage during a longer vacation absence; the limit of this discretionary extension (available in one-year increments) is two years in a lifetime.

Telephone: 416-327-4282
Or Toll-Free 1-866-532-3161

Fax: 416-314-8721

Mail: ServiceOntario INFOline
M-1B114, Macdonald Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON
M7A 1N3

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/ohip/>

Quebec

Persons who leave Québec temporarily are required to notify if the time they spend outside Québec during a calendar year totals 183 days or more, consecutive or not. In addition, an unlimited number of short-term trips, each not longer than 21 consecutive days, can be taken without counting toward the 183-day limit. To be sure of being covered by the Health Insurance Plan during an absence from Québec, these persons must contact the Régie before leaving.

Telephone: Montreal: 514-864-3411 Quebec: 418-646-4636
Or Toll-Free: 1-800-561-9749

Fax: unknown

Mail: Régie de l'assurance maladie - Québec
1125, Grande Allée Ouest
Québec , QC
G1S 1E7

Régie de l'assurance maladie - Montréal
425, boulevard De Maisonneuve Ouest
3rd floor, suite 300
Montréal, QC
H3A 3G5

<http://ramq.org/en/citoyens/assurancemaladie/index.shtml>

Prince Edward Island

In order to retain health coverage, Prince Edward Islanders must be present in the province at least six months plus a day each year. This time is not consecutive, meaning that residents may take an unlimited number of trips outside the province, provided that their total time inside the province amounts to six months plus one day. With government approval, health coverage may be maintained despite an absence of more than six months; coverage may be extended for up to one year. While the government's website strongly recommends that travelers notify the Department of Health and Social Services of any absence exceeding one month.

Please provide:

- date of departure
- your destination
- reason for your absence and
- date of return

Telephone: 902-368-6261

Fax: 902-620-3072

Mail: PEI Medicare
Department of Health
PO Box 2000
16 Garfield Street
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

<http://www.gpei.ca/health/index.php3?number=1020475&lang=E>

Yukon

Yukon legislation requires residents to be ordinarily present in the territory to qualify for health benefits. Residents must not be absent for longer than 12 consecutive months and must be able to demonstrate that they are considered to “make their home and be normally present” in the Yukon. If you are an eligible Yukon resident and you will be away from the territory for more than six months, you will be covered for physician and hospital services only. You are advised to contact Insured Health Services if you will be away from the Yukon for more than two months. Residents of the Yukon who will be away for more than two months are asked to indicate their intentions by completing a “Temporary Absence” form to ensure ongoing health coverage.

Telephone: 867-667-5209
Or Toll-Free 1-800-661-0408

Fax: 867-667-3096

Mail: Health and Social Services
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/programs/insured_hearing/outside_coverage/