



Canadian Bureau for
International Education
Bureau canadien de
l'éducation internationale

WEEKLY UPDATE ON COVID19

March 20, 2020

To all international students who are currently part of CBIE-administered scholarship programs:

Not a day goes by without news about the evolution of the pandemic and the response in your province, in Canada and around the world.

CBIE continues to monitor the situation and its impacts on a daily basis.

We will provide you with a weekly update on Fridays. This update will include the main news items, in particular those that impact you.

We invite you to stay tuned to the information published by your institution (section dedicated to Covid19 on the institution's website OR via e-mail) who also monitors the situation hour by hour. Our scholarship program managers are also following the situation and will inform you if required of any specific information.

The pandemic continues to grow worldwide and we share your stress of not being with your loved ones in your home countries. Your health and well-being remains our primary concern in this time of global health crisis.

IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE WEEK

Here is an overview of important developments from this week that may affect you:

On Monday, March 16, 2020, the Canadian government decided to close its borders to international travel.

- **How has this decision affected international students?**

Earlier this week it was communicated by Prime Minister Trudeau that international students and workers, including Study Permit Holders and Post Graduate Work Permit Holders who are currently outside of Canada and the United States will not be permitted to board an aircraft to return to Canada, unless they are the spouse, common-law partner or dependent child of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

As of 8:22 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020, a Government of Canada News Release has specified that exemptions to the air travel restrictions will apply to foreign nationals who have committed to working, studying or making Canada their home, and they will be considered essential travel with regards to land border restrictions. This includes:

- **temporary foreign workers;**
- **international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18.**

The Government of Canada has advised that eligible students should not try to travel to Canada immediately. The Government will announce when the exemptions are in place, which they anticipate will be early next week.

We will communicate any relevant updates to this evolving situation as soon as they are available.

This week, the Canadian government also communicated that the Canada-US border will close on the evening of Friday, March 20, 2020 (11:59 p.m.) to non-essential travel.

- **How does this impact international students coming from the US to Canada?**

International students, workers on visas and temporary foreign workers will be able to enter Canada from the United States, with the expectation that they will respect the government's request to self-isolate for 14 days.

Canadian Institutions Are in the Process of Implementing New Measures Related to Requests for Greater Social Distancing Across Their Campuses. These measures

include moving learning online and moving to significantly reduce the numbers of students presently living in residence on campus.

- **What should I do if I receive a notice from my institution informing me that residences are being closed and that I am required to vacate the premises by a particular date?**

Please be in contact directly with your scholarship program manager to discuss this notice. We have been in communication with many of our scholarship students who have been in receipt of such notices in recent days. Many institutions are moving to make exceptions for international students living in residence on their campuses. CBIE staff will undertake the necessary advocacy to support our students during this stressful time to help them secure a safe and secure living option.

In some instances where international students have been granted an exception and been allowed to remain living in residence, they have been required to relocate to new rooms in order to adhere with the public health and safety directives of local and provincial communities across Canada.

Reminder: What should you do if you start to have symptoms of COVID-19?

If you start to develop [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, please isolate yourself from others as quickly as possible. Immediately call a health care professional or the public health authority in the province or territory where you are located (consult the contact list below).

Once in contact with health authorities, you will be asked to describe your symptoms and travel history. Health care professionals will provide you with advice on what you should do.

DO NOT GO TO THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO SO BY RELEVANT PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

Public Health Authorities	
Province/Territory	Contact Number
Alberta	811
British Columbia	811
Manitoba	1-888-315-9257
New Brunswick	811
Newfoundland and Labrador	811 or 1-888-709-2929
Northwest Territories	911
Nova Scotia	811
Nunavut	1-867-975-5772
Ontario	1-866-797-0000
Prince Edward Island	811
Quebec	1-877-644-4545
Saskatchewan	811
Yukon	811

Should you have additional questions about CBIE’s response to COVID-19 in support of CBIE-administered scholarship programs, please be in direct contact with the Program Managers of your specific scholarship program.

CBIE continues to monitor the situation and remains dedicated to your concerns and safety. CBIE will provide e-mail updates with new information as it emerges.

Each of you remains at the forefront of our thoughts and we are committed to supporting you to the best of our ability during this time of global uncertainty. We shall remain in close communication with you, and in the meantime, we hope that each of you remain safe and well within your respective Canadian communities.

Larissa Bezo
President and CEO
Canadian Bureau for International Education