

COVID-19 and International Students, Faculty and Staff Q & A

eHealth now requires Saskatchewan International Designated Learning Institutions to provide a confirmation letter to all new international students physically enrolled in their institution for inclusion in the student's Saskatchewan Health Card application.

Q: If my student study permits is about to expire, how will this affect my Saskatchewan Health Card coverage?

A: International students automatically lose their Health Card coverage when their study permit expires.

Q: What should I do to avoid losing Health Card coverage?

A: International students are advised to submit a Study Permit Extension Application immediately to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Second, to avoid losing their coverage due to expiration of their current study permits, international students need to apply for a six-month extension on their Health Cards at eHealth Saskatchewan (ehealthsask.ca/residents/health-cards/Pages/Update-or-Replace-a-Health-Card.aspx) and follow the instructions in [Update your Health Card registration information online](#) section. International students will need to upload receipt proofs for both their study permit extension application submission and payment. Finally, upon receiving their original study permit extension from IRCC, International students need to login to their eHealth account again to complete the saved [Notification of an Updated Immigration Document](#) form and upload the original study permit extension electronically.

Q: For international visitors such as professors or researchers with work Visas about to expire, how will this affect their Saskatchewan Health Card coverage?

A: They will automatically lose their Health Card coverage when the work Visas expire, and they will need to apply for a six-month extension on their Health Cards to avoid losing coverage. Please refer to the above question and answer with regards to students. The same process applies.

Q: Are international students with study permits required to obtain a Saskatchewan Health Card upon entering the province for post-secondary education?

A: Saskatchewan Health Cards are not mandatory, but international students are advised to apply for Health Cards to help improve their access to medical care.

Q: What happens if International Students do not have Health Cards and need access to medical attention?

A: The Federal Government does not have emergency medical coverage for students, but does provide funding for eligible recipients to purchase coverage or care during COVID- 19 pandemic. Please refer to the following website for more information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

On April 9, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that post-secondary educational institutions would provide emergency financial aid to vulnerable students through a one-time bursary, for urgent expenses like medical care and food. Domestic and international students must meet eligibility requirements at each institution in order to receive funding.

Q: What if International Students do not have Health Cards? How will this affect their ability to access medical attention?

A: Students will have to pay for any medical expenses or maintain medical insurance coverage.

Q: If international students do not have Health Cards, will they receive Health Card coverage immediately upon application?

A: No. Health Card coverage is only available once students receive their Health Cards. Application is not a guarantee of coverage.

Q: If international students pay for medical expenses prior to receiving their Saskatchewan Health Cards, can they be reimbursed for those medical expenses after receiving their Health Cards?

A: International students that have applied for a Saskatchewan Health Card but have not received it will have to pay for any medical expenses they incur. Students may keep all receipts and submit them to eHealth after receiving their Saskatchewan Health Card; however, there is no guarantee that their expenses will be reimbursed. If the student is facing a life-threatening medical emergency, they can contact eHealth and request to have their application brought to the front of the line for review.

Q: What coverage is provided to international students with a Saskatchewan Health Card?

A: The same coverage as Saskatchewan domestic residents. Please refer to the following website for details about domestic universal health benefits: ehealthsask.ca/services/resources/Resources/IFYB-2016.pdf#search=Health%20Card%20coverage

Q: Are there coverage limitations for international students with a Saskatchewan Health Card?

A: Limitations are the same as for Saskatchewan domestic residents. Please refer to the following website for details about domestic universal health benefits: ehealthsask.ca/services/resources/Resources/IFYB-2016.pdf#search=Health%20Card%20coverage