

Welcome to another edition of GIDIP Disa-Bulletin. In this issue, Your GIDIP Board of Trustees' focus is to help clarify some Members' confusion with respect to COVID-19 and GIDIP claims.

MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

The Federal Government announced on August 13, 2021 that COVID-19 vaccinations would be mandatory for federal employees and those working in federally regulated industries, including the aviation sector. Air Canada has mandated that all employees must be vaccinated no later than October 30, 2021. Subject to accommodation for documented health and religious exceptions, the Employee/Member declining to be vaccinated could face consequences, up to and including termination of employment.

Members have asked about their options if they choose not to be vaccinated – specifically if they would be eligible for GIDIP benefits.

Under the GIDIP Plan, to qualify for disability benefits you must meet the terms of the Plan for Total Disability.

Total Disability or Totally Disabled means that because of accidental bodily injury or illness you are:

- a) Not able to perform any and every duty pertaining to your job; and
- b) Under the regular, active supervised care of a Physician qualified to treat the condition and following the prescribed course of recognized treatment for the totally disabling condition.

Members choosing not to be vaccinated will not be eligible for GIDIP benefits as they would not meet the qualification of "Total Disability" as defined in your GIDIP Plan.

CHANGES TO TRAVEL COVERAGE

If you are considering travelling outside of your province of residence be sure to verify with your insurer prior to departure for any changes relative to your travel coverage. Some insurers have made changes or amendments during the pandemic on travel advisories, eligible countries, vaccination and quarantine coverage, and even if emergency travel coverage will be maintained and applied if you contract COVID-19.

RECALL FOLLOWING LAY-OFF AND YOUR GIDIP

As communicated in June 2020, the Trustees wish to remind you again that if you did not maintain your GIDIP coverage by pre-paying your GIDIP premiums during your lay-off period, your GIDIP coverage would have been suspended. Coverage will not be reinstated until you physically and actively return to work (performing your regular duties and hours) for a minimum of fourteen (14) consecutive days (including your ROD).

Our Plan Administrator has received many inquiries from Members who became disabled during their lay-off period, and when recalled they could not return to work because of their disability. However, if Members did not pre-pay their GIDIP premiums, their coverage was suspended and their GIDIP claim is declined.

Keep watching these Bulletins for your Plan updates!!

STAY HEALTHY – STAY SAFE – IN SOLIDARITY,

YOUR GIDIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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