

## COVID-19 testing and vaccination FAQs

### Is a COVID-19 test covered under the extended health benefit?

COVID testing costs are not eligible under the extended health benefit.

### Is a COVID-19 test covered under the Health Spending Accounts (HSA) and Wellness Spending Accounts (WSA)?

Yes, COVID-19 test fees are considered eligible to deduct as a medical expense by the Canadian Revenue Agency under an HSA when accompanied with a prescription from a medical doctor, pharmacist, nurse or dentist. Tests are also eligible under a WSA with no prescription required. This applies to tests done within Canada and the new government requirement for tests done outside of Canada prior to boarding an incoming flight.

### Why is a prescription for a COVID-19 test necessary for the claim to be eligible for payment by my HSA?

A claim for a COVID-19 test, when accompanied by a prescription, is an expense permitted by the rules governing HSAs in Canada. The Medical Expenses Tax Credit allows HSAs to cover expenses for diagnostic tests when prescribed by a medical practitioner. Prescriptions include those from a medical doctor, pharmacist, nurse or dentist.

### A member's air travel plans have been interrupted due to COVID -19 testing requirements. Is there any coverage under their emergency travel benefit?

Alberta Blue Cross's travel benefit covers medical emergencies only. COVID-19 screening tests, meals, accommodations and a new airline ticket or change in departure resulting from the need for a COVID-19 test or a positive COVID-19 test result are not covered under the travel benefit.

### Is the COVID-19 vaccine covered under a member's drug benefits?

Health Canada expects to offer free vaccinations to every Canadian who wants one. With no anticipated cost associated with vaccination, there is currently no need for the COVID-19 vaccine to be covered under a member's Alberta Blue Cross benefit plan.

### The member purchased and received a COVID-19 vaccine in another country. Can this be claimed on their Alberta Blue Cross benefit plan?

This can be claimed under their HSA as long as it is submitted with all of the required information, such as a pharmacy receipt, DIN, patients name and other relevant information.