

**To:** All users

**From:** Maura McKinnon, Chief Human Resource Officer

**Date:** March 25, 2020

**Re:** **Bulletin #11b: COVID-19 HR Update – Mar 25 2020**

## Blue Cross Rate Changes

This information is provided to you on behalf of the Government of New Brunswick's Standing Committee on Insured Benefits.

A new Employee Benefits At-A-Glance newsletter is available [here](#) on the Vestcor website. It contains important information about your Health and Dental plans, including a new rate category for couples (or 1 employee + 1 other dependent), rate changes and update to the Dental Fee Guide.

### IMPORTANT!

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic event, GNB has reduced its operations to critical functions only until further notice. We recognize this creates anxiety both for those who remain on the job because they provide critical services and those who are currently at home waiting to be deployed where help is needed. The following measures are in place to support employees during these unprecedented times:

- The usual 31-day window to add/change your coverage is suspended while Government operations are reduced to critical functions. We will reactivate the 31-day window once we resume normal operations. This means current employees as well as new employees will not need to worry about missing out on the opportunity to elect or change coverage.
- Your extended health benefits include services to support the mental health of you and your family members. For example, this would include services from a registered psychologist, social worker, counselling therapist and psychotherapist.
- EFAP services are available online 24-hours a day 365 days a week by calling at 1-866-721-1738 (to log in: Username: gnb; Password: inconfidence)

We are aware there is a significant increase in calls to the EFAP line and encourage you to also explore other options. Chat and video counselling are other means of communication available on the website.

If you have any questions about your employee benefits, contact the Member Services team at 1-800-561-4012.