

New Entry Requirements for Cuba Bound Travellers - Update

May 4, 2010

We at Benefit Partners are pleased to provide you with an update on health insurance regulations when travelling to Cuba. The following information was found on the [Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada](#) website in Section 4.

The Government of Cuba has announced that travellers will have to present proof of health insurance in order to enter the country as of May 1, 2010. Upon arrival, travellers may be required to present an insurance policy, insurance certificate, or medical assistance card valid for the period of their stay in Cuba. Those who do not have proof of insurance coverage may be required to obtain health insurance from a Cuban insurance company when they arrive. Temporary residents will also have to hold valid health insurance policies.

Although proof of Canadian provincial health insurance will be sufficient for visitors to enter Cuba, your provincial plan may cover only part of the costs and will not pay the bill up-front, as required. It is therefore recommended that travellers purchase supplemental health insurance. Note that some private insurers also require the traveller to pay costs up-front and be reimbursed later. For more information on travel health insurance, please see [Section 11](#) of this Travel Report. Travellers should note that Cuban authorities will not allow anyone with outstanding medical bills to leave the country.

All health insurance policies will be recognized except those issued by U.S. insurance companies, as they cannot provide coverage in Cuba.

For additional details on this requirement, please consult the [Embassy of Cuba in Canada](#).

We hope you find this information useful, and we will continue to provide you with updates relating to this matter and others as they affect your group plan!