

# Joint Early Intervention Services (JEIS)

## For absences of 6 days or more



### What Is JEIS?

JEIS is a supportive program provided by the Public Education Benefits Trust (PEBT) that helps unionized school support staff in B.C.'s public schools who are off work due to illness or injury. JEIS offers early assistance, helps coordinate treatment, and works with members to plan a healthy and safe return to work. PEBT has partnered with Desjardins to provide these services. Many members just like you have already benefited from JEIS.

### Confidential

Your personal medical information, including diagnosis and treatment details, is completely confidential and will not be shared with your employer or union.

### Required Participation

After 6 days of absence, you'll be referred to the JEIS program, and your participation is required—even if you're receiving benefits from WorkSafeBC or planning to return to work soon. This program is supported by both your employer and your local union to help you recover and return to work successfully.

### Next Steps

After your school district sends your referral, Desjardins will contact you within 1–2 business days. They'll collaborate with you and your doctor to create a personalized support plan that fits your needs.

### Questions?

Contact your school district or union locals if you have questions about JEIS or visit the PEBT website at:  
**[www.pebt.ca](http://www.pebt.ca)**

# Joint Early Intervention Services Frequently Asked Questions

## **1: ARE ALL MEMBERS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE (JEIS) IF THEY ARE ABSENT FOR MORE THAN 6 CONSECUTIVE SCHEDULED WORKING DAYS/SHIFTS?**

**A:** Yes. This is a mandatory part of the Public Education Benefits Trust's (PEBT) long term disability (LTD) plan, and this includes WorksafeBC absences.

## **2: IF PARTICIPATION IN JEIS IS REQUIRED, DOES THAT MEAN MEMBERS MUST SHARE ALL THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION OR FOLLOW EVERY RECOMMENDED TREATMENT, EVEN IF THEIR DOCTOR DISAGREES?**

**A:** No, JEIS is a supportive program. Members decide what information to share, and treatment decisions are made by the member and their doctor.

## **3: SHOULD A MEMBER RESPOND TO DESJARDINS EVEN IF THEY ARE RETURNING TO WORK?**

**A:** Yes. Even if assistance is not required, a member should respond to Desjardins so that Desjardins can move on and help other members.

## **4: WHAT WILL DESJARDINS ASK THE MEMBER WHEN THEY FIRST CALL?**

**A:** Desjardins will gather basic information such as the member's last date worked and information about why the member is absent. If the member remains off work, Desjardins may send forms for the member and their doctor to complete.

## **5: IF MY DOCTOR SUPPORTS A RETURN-TO-WORK (RTW) PLAN, SHOULD I RETURN TO WORK?**

**A:** If a member refuses to participate in the RTW plan supported by their doctor, then that member may not qualify for LTD benefits. It is important to follow your doctor's recommendations and to openly share any questions or concerns you may have with them.