



special communiqué

April 19, 2010

A periodic publication to inform key stakeholders about topics of special interest.

Travelling to Cuba?

Effective May 1, 2010 Cuba will make it mandatory for all visitors to hold either travel health insurance from providers approved by the Cuban government or to purchase it from Cuban vendors at its ports of entry.

Approved companies are those, like CanAssistance, that are affiliated with Asistur SA, the official medical assistance society of Cuba. Because of Medavie Blue Cross's affiliation with CanAssistance, travellers who hold Medavie Blue Cross travel insurance are covered.

This new rule will apply to tourists and other visitors including visiting Cubans living abroad and foreigners temporarily living in Cuba. Diplomats and representatives of accredited international organizations will be exempt.

In order to avoid any potential difficulty we remind you to pack the following in your carry-on luggage:

- A valid Canadian passport;
- Your provincial health care card;
- Your Medavie Blue Cross ID card.

More information is available from the [Cuban Embassy to Canada's](#) website.

We have attached a letter that can be completed with insurance details for travellers that would like extra documentation confirming their coverage (it is not required).

Please note: this form is to be provided by administrators to plan members upon request. Again, we would like to emphasize this is not a required document for travel to Cuba.