




COVID-19 GUIDE

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COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment
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Caring for Someone Affected
How to Apply for Income Support

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

IF YOU ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF COVID-19:

-  **SELF-ISOLATE**
-  **DO NOT GO INTO YOUR GP**
-  **RING YOUR GP TO DISCUSS**

If you're diagnosed with COVID-19 or are medically certified to self-isolate by a GP you can apply for Illness Benefit. To be eligible for this payment you must be confined to your home or a medical facility. To get an Illness Benefit form phone 1890 800 024 or get a friend or family member to collect one from your GP or Intreo Centre. Send completed form to:

DEASP FREEPOST

PO Box 1650

(Your GP sends a medical cert to the Department)

Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/99104a-covid-19-coronavirus/>

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection are introducing measures to provide income support to people affected by COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The arrangements are intended to reduce the financial loss incurred by workers, employed and self-employed people, who are not adequately covered by occupational sick pay arrangements.

3 major changes have been announced:

- 1** The current 6-day waiting period for Illness Benefit will not apply to anyone who has COVID-19 (Coronavirus) or is in medically-required self-isolation
- 2** The personal rate of Illness Benefit will increase from €203 per week to €305 per week for a maximum of 2 weeks medically-required self-isolation or for the full duration of absence from work following a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- 3** The normal social insurance requirements for Illness Benefit will be changed or the means test for Supplementary Welfare Allowance will be removed

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

New payment for workers and self employed who have lost employment due to the economic downturn caused by hashtag COVID19.

- It will be paid for 6 weeks at a rate of €203 per week.
- You will have to apply for Jobseekers Benefit during this 6 week period.
- It is designed to provide a quick payment to applicants in an effort to provide financial security during this 6 week period.
- The application form is one page and it can be sent by free post to PO Box 12896, Dublin 1 or check out www.welfare.ie for online applications.

Download the information packet here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/be74d3-covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-payment/?referrer=/pandemicsupport/>

Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/99104a-covid-19-coronavirus/>



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WERE YOU LAID-OFF TEMPORARILY OR PUT ON SHORT-TIME WORKING?

Temporarily Laid-Off:

Employees who are laid off temporarily, without pay, due to a reduction in business activity, can apply for a Jobseeker's Payment.

- This application can be made online at www.mywelfare.ie or in person at an Intreo Centre.

Short-Term Working:

Employees who are put onto short-time working by their employer due to a reduction in business activity related to Covid-19 may apply for a Short Time Work Support payment.

- This application can be made in person at an Intreo Centre.

WERE YOU REQUESTED TO STAY AT HOME BY YOUR EMPLOYER?

Employers are requested to follow public health advice and should not ask staff to stay away from work except in accordance with this advice.

Where employers send staff home in circumstances where they are not advised to do so, it is expected that they will continue to pay the staff as normal. Any worker, who is not advised to self-isolate in accordance with the up-to-date guidelines of the HSE, but is requested to stay at home by their employer as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19 will, in situations where the employer cannot continue to pay their wages, be considered to have been temporarily laid-off and can apply for income support in the form of a Jobseeker Payment or Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR A PERSON AFFECTED BY COVID-19?

Many employers can agree on compassionate leave arrangements with staff who need to take short periods of time off to care for another person, including arrangements to work remotely, to work alternative shifts, to work-up time taken, to rearrange parental leave or to bring forward annual leave entitlements from future work periods. Where it is not possible to make appropriate arrangements, employees can call on some statutory entitlements:

- Employees are entitled to paid leave (called Force Majeure Leave) where they are urgently required to attend to the needs of a person who is affected by an illness, including an actual or probable case of COVID-19. It is limited to a total of 3 days in a 12-month period or 5 days in a 36-month period. In the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19, it is expected that employers will, if possible, facilitate people by allowing them to take the full 5 days entitlement in one block, as required.
- Parents are entitled, with 6 weeks' notice, to take up to 22 weeks unpaid parental leave to care for each child up to 12 years of age (16 years of age in the case of a child with a disability).
- Parents are also entitled, with 6 weeks' notice, to take parents leave of 2 weeks for each child under 1 year of age born on or after the 1st November 2019. Parents taking parents leave are eligible to apply for Parents Benefit from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Applications can be made online at www.mywelfare.ie.

Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/99104a-covid-19-coronavirus/>



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HOW TO APPLY FOR INCOME SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

STEP 1

If the doctor is satisfied that you have Covid-19 or that you should self-isolate, they'll advise you accordingly. The doctor will then complete a medical certificate on your behalf and send this directly to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. To receive a payment, you will need to provide your doctor with your name, PPS number, and date of birth.

STEP 2

You'll need to complete an application form for Illness Benefit (Form IB 1). There are three ways that you can make an application:

- You can call 1890 800 024 or 01 2481398 between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday to get an application form by post
- Organise someone to pick up a form at your doctor's surgery or at your local Intreo Centre
- An online application process will be available by the end of March



HOW TO APPLY FOR INCOME SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

STEP 3

Send your application form by Freepost to:

Social Welfare Services

PO Box

1650, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Dublin 1

Once both the application form and the medical certificate are received payment will be processed. All info can be found on the below website:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/99104a-covid-19-coronavirus/>



Coronavirus COVID-19



If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movement for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on www.dfa.ie

How to Prevent



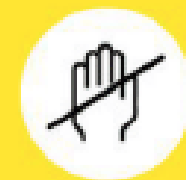
Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



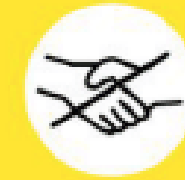
Avoid

touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



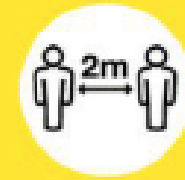
Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Stop

shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people



Distance

yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

All people are advised to:

- > **Reduce** social interactions
- > **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- > **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit hse.ie OR phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**

Symptoms

> Fever (High Temperature) > A Cough > Shortness of Breath > Breathing Difficulties

For daily updates visit

www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

Ireland is operating a containment strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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