

Support announced for essential workers

The Government has announced that from 6 April 2020, essential workers will be able to apply for financial support if they need to take leave and stay home due to the effects of COVID-19.

The scheme, similar to the previous leave and isolation support scheme, is aimed at supporting essential workers who are unable to attend work without potentially spreading COVID-19 or endangering those within their social bubble.

Essential workers who will be eligible include:

- Those who are self-isolating in accordance with public health guidance because they have contracted COVID-19, have come into contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19 or if a dependent they care for is sick or self-isolating;
- Those that are deemed at [higher risk](#) if they contract COVID-19 and who should be self-isolating for their own safety;
- Those who have a household member that is deemed [high risk](#) if they contract COVID-19 and who should be self-isolating for their own safety.

The amount that workers can receive is at the same rate as the wage subsidy scheme: \$585.80 per week for fulltime employment and \$350.00 per week for part time employment.

The Government continues to stress the importance of preventing the spread of the virus and taking all practical measures to avoid this. This scheme for essential workers is to ensure that there is no pressure for essential workers to attend employment when there is any risk of spread and to ensure that if they do stay home, they will still be paid.

As well as the leave scheme, there are other benefits also available to essential workers, including transport and childcare arrangements in certain circumstances.

For more information on these, please see: <https://covid19.govt.nz/businesses-and-employees/for-essential-workers/>

For more information on applying for the essential worker leave scheme, please see work and income's guidance: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-essential-workers-leave-support.html#null>

Resources:

Essential workers leave scheme established <<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/essential-workers-leave-scheme-established>> 2 April 2020

Essential Workers <<https://covid19.govt.nz/businesses-and-employees/for-essential-workers/>>

COVID-19 Essential Workers Leave Support <<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-essential-workers-leave-support.html#null>>