



COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme and Short-Term Absence Payment

COVID-19 payments to help pay workers and self-employed people who are self-isolating.

There are two different COVID-19 payments available for employers and self-employed people at any COVID-19 traffic light colour:

- COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme
- COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment.

These payments are to help employers pay workers, and to pay self-employed people, who can't work while they're self-isolating or because they need to self-isolate while they're waiting on a test result.

There's no revenue test.

COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme

COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme is for when people need to self-isolate and can't work from home.

The Leave Support Scheme is a weekly payment, paid at a flat rate of:

- \$600 a week for workers who were working 20 hours or more a week (full-time)
- \$359 a week for workers who were working less than 20 hours a week (part-time).

To be eligible the worker will need to meet certain health criteria, eg they have COVID-19 or are a close contact. They must also have been told to self-isolate for at least four consecutive days.

When a worker needs to self-isolate for at least 11 calendar days or more, an employer or self-employed person can apply for a second weekly payment. More payments can be applied for every further seven days of self-isolation.

Employers can apply for casual workers and people who work variable hours. Use the average hours worked in the last eight weeks to work out what rate to apply for.

For more information about the Covid-19 Leave Support Scheme go to: workandincome.govt.nz and search on **leave support scheme**.

COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment

COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment is for when a worker or self-employed person needs to self-isolate while they're waiting on a COVID-19 test result and they can't work from home.

Workers may also be eligible if they need to support a dependent (eg children or a family member with a disability) who has to stay home because they're waiting on a COVID-19 test result.

It's a one-off payment of \$359 for each eligible worker. It can only be paid once in any 30-day period (unless a health official or doctor tells the employee to get another test).

For more information about the Covid-19 Short-Term Absence Payment go to: [workandincome.govt.nz](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz) and search on **Short Term Absence Payment**.

Before applying

Before an employer applies for either of these payments, they need to have had a conversation with their worker and understand the declarations they are agreeing to.

An employer or self-employed person can only get one type of COVID-19 payment at a time for a worker or themselves if they are self-employed.