

Assistance for Employees

The Illness Benefit scheme is for an employee or self-employed person who has been told to self-isolate by a doctor or the HSE. An employee or self-employed person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a doctor. An employee must be absent from work and confined to their home or a medical facility.

You must apply for Illness Benefit within 6 weeks of becoming ill. No payment is made for the first 6 days of illness, which are known as waiting days. (Note that Sunday is not counted as a waiting day.) The only time that the 6 waiting days are not applied is if you were getting certain other social welfare payments within 3 days of the start of your illness. Waiting days do not apply if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 or if you are medically required to self-isolate.

It was announced in Budget 2021 that the number of waiting days for Illness Benefit will be reduced from 6 days to 3 days on new claims (from the end of February 2021).

View [Illness Benefit](#) for more.

The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment is a flat rate of €350 per week currently. As part of the July Stimulus the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will now be further extended to April 2021 and the payment rate will be tapered over that time by introducing a new earnings-related payment rate of €250 and reducing the headline payment rate to €300.

From 17 September there will be three rates of payment:

- For people who previously earned under €200 per week is now €203.
- For people who previously earned between €200 and €300 per week is now €250.
- For people who previously earned more than €300 per week is now €300.

From 16 October 2020, people who were earning €400 per week or more is now €350.

Budget 2021

A Christmas Bonus of 100% will be paid in early December 2020 to people getting PUP for at least 4 months.

An earnings threshold of €480 per month will be introduced for self-employed people getting PUP to allow them to take up occasional work opportunities and keep their PUP.

Self-employed people who resume their business on a limited or reduced basis when they leave PUP will be eligible for the [Part-Time Job Incentive scheme](#).

Short term work support is an income support payment for employees who have been temporarily placed on a shorter working week. The payment is made in respect of employees' regular salary for the days that they are no longer working.

To qualify for Short Time Work Support, employees must be temporarily working a standard reduced weekly work pattern, working 3 days or less per week having previously worked fulltime, be under 66 years of age, be capable of work and be available for full-time work and have enough paid or credited social insurance (PRSI) contributions at class A, H, S or P.

Your rate of payment will depend on your average weekly earnings in the governing contribution year and the change in your work pattern. For example, if you are placed on a 3-day work pattern having previously worked 5 days, you may be entitled to up to €81.20 for the 2 days you are no longer working. This represents two fifths of the maximum weekly rate of Jobseeker's Benefit of €203.