

Sample Communication Related to FFCRA



As many of you know, the DOL has released information regarding FFCRA. In short, paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Act is in effect from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Please see information outlined below and [FAQ](#). Note: This is ever-changing and livingHR provides legal hotline support should additional questions arise.

Tax Relief: Small and midsize employers can begin taking advantage of two new refundable payroll tax credits, designed to immediately and fully reimburse them, dollar-for-dollar, for the cost of providing Coronavirus-related leave to their employees. This relief to employees and small and midsize businesses is provided under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Act), signed by President Trump on March 18, 2020.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-irs-and-labor-announce-plan-to-implement-coronavirus-related-paid-leave-for-workers-and-tax-credits-for-small-and-midsize-businesses-to-swiftly-recover-the-cost-of-providing-coronavirus>

Covered Employers: The paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave provisions of the FFCRA apply to certain public employers, and private employers with fewer than 500 employees.[1] Most employees of the federal government are covered by Title II of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which was not amended by this Act, and are therefore not covered by the expanded family and medical leave provisions of the FFCRA. However, federal employees covered by Title II of the Family and Medical Leave Act are covered by the paid sick leave provision.

Small businesses with fewer than 50 employees may qualify for exemption from the requirement to provide leave due to school closings or childcare unavailability if the leave requirements would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern.

Eligible Employees: All employees of covered employers are eligible for two weeks of paid sick time for specified reasons related to COVID-19. Employees employed for at least 30 days are eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of paid family leave to care for a child under certain circumstances related to COVID-19.[2]

Notice: Where leave is foreseeable, an employee should provide notice of leave to the employer as is practicable. After the first workday of paid sick time, an employer may require employees to follow reasonable notice procedures in order to continue receiving paid sick time. **Please post electronically if you are working remote (a sample communication is listed below) or where this is visible to onsite employees TODAY:**
https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf

Additional Resources

More information on Employee Paid Leave Rights is available on the Department of Labor website:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

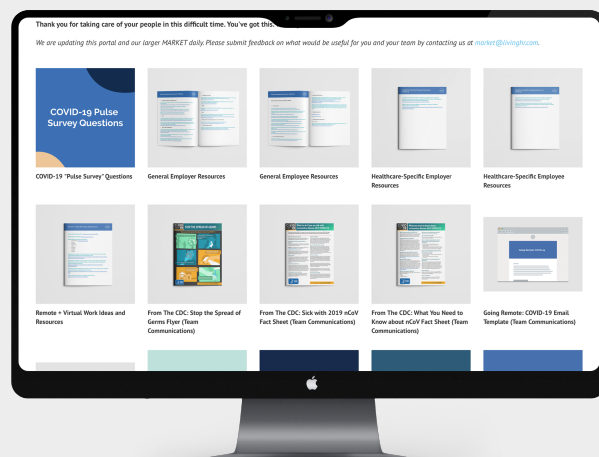
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>

livingHR Free COVID-19 Portal also has additional helpful resources for you and our team:

<https://livinghrmarket.com/collections/livinghr-humanized-covid-19-portal>

We are here for you,

-The livingHR Team





Sample Employee Notice

Subject: Information on Paid Leave Related to Coronavirus (Include Attachment)

Message:

At **Company Name**, the safety and wellbeing of our team is a top priority. There is now paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Act is in effect from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. A copy of the notice from the Department of Labor with more complete information is attached and includes everything you need to know about paid leave, eligibility and qualifying reasons for leave under the Act.

If you believe that one of the qualifying reasons directly related to COVID-19 may apply to you, please contact (**insert name or human resources**) at (**insert info**) to discuss your next steps.

More information on Employee Paid Leave Rights is available on the Department of Labor website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>.

We are here for you!

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EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

▶ PAID LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Generally, employers covered under the Act must provide employees:

Up to two weeks (80 hours, or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent) of paid sick leave based on the higher of their regular rate of pay, or the applicable state or Federal minimum wage, paid at:

- 100% for qualifying reasons #1-3 below, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total;
- $\frac{2}{3}$ for qualifying reasons #4 and 6 below, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total; and
- Up to 10 weeks more of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave paid at $\frac{2}{3}$ for qualifying reason #5 below for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total.

A part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

▶ ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

In general, employees of private sector employers with fewer than 500 employees, and certain public sector employers, are eligible for up to two weeks of fully or partially paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons (see below). *Employees who have been employed for at least 30 days prior to their leave request may be eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of partially paid expanded family and medical leave for reason #5 below.*

▶ QUALIFYING REASONS FOR LEAVE RELATED TO COVID-19

An employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to **telework**, because the employee:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2); | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) due to COVID-19 related reasons; or6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. |
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▶ ENFORCEMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has the authority to investigate and enforce compliance with the FFCRA. Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against any employee who lawfully takes paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, files a complaint, or institutes a proceeding under or related to this Act. Employers in violation of the provisions of the FFCRA will be subject to penalties and enforcement by WHD.



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For additional information
or to file a complaint:
1-866-487-9243
TTY: 1-877-889-5627
dol.gov/agencies/whd

