

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Welfare and Benefits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Work and Pensions have made some changes to the way that the UK benefits system will operate.

More information can be found on the [Government website page for Coronavirus support for employees, benefit claimants and businesses](#).

### Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

As part of the budget announced on 11 March 2020, the Chancellor announced that Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will be available for those diagnosed with COVID-19 **and** those staying at home in line with Government advice even if they are not infected.

SSP will be made available from day one rather than day four. If employees need evidence that they need to stay at home, they will be able to get this from NHS 111 instead of having to go to their doctor.

If you are not eligible to receive sick pay you can apply for Universal Credit and/or New Style Employment and Support Allowance if you are prevented from working. Changes are being made to make it easier for those unable to work due to COVID-19 to make a claim.

You will be able to apply for Universal Credit and receive up to a month's advance upfront without physically attending a jobcentre.

If you are suffering from coronavirus **or** are required to stay at home and want to apply for ESA, the usual 7 waiting days for new claimants will not apply. ESA will be payable from day one.

Please see [Government guidance](#) for more detail and to make a claim.