



PEOPLE

BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT LAW

COVID-19

Travel restrictions

Foreign travellers who have been present in, or transited through, Iran or mainland China in the previous 14 days cannot enter New Zealand. Travellers to New Zealand from the rest of the world, except most Pacific Islands, must isolate themselves upon arrival.

People arriving from the Pacific islands mentioned below do not have to isolate themselves if they are well. If they develop symptoms within 14 days of leaving one of these islands, they should contact Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Tokelau
- Wallis and Futuna

People who have had close contact with a confirmed case should isolate themselves and if they develop symptoms, they should call Healthline or their doctor.

A most useful Q&A on travel restrictions is available on the INZ website [here](#).

The Government's Economic Response Package

The Government has announced a major support package to help the health system, support business and their staff and households generally, particularly the elderly. The Minister's speech to Parliament can be found [here](#).

We strongly suggest you read the four factsheets published by The Beehive [here](#).

The factsheets are listed in the box headed Related Documents in the right-hand column of the web page, next to the text of the Minister's speech.

The factsheets are headed –

- Business cashflow and tax measures
- COVID leave support
- Income support
- Wage subsidy scheme

Members will be interested in the \$12.1 billion wage subsidy to keep employees at work and paid during the pandemic.

Starting from Tuesday next week (24 March), businesses that can show a 30% drop in revenue for any month between January and June compared to the same period last year, will receive up to \$150,000 over the next 12 months to allow them to pay fulltime employees \$585 and part-timers \$385 per week.

About half of all businesses are expected to participate. **Applications can be made online immediately [here](#)**. Payments are to be made within five days.

More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

A new sick leave scheme will allow the same amount of cash to be made available for any workers of contractors who need to isolate themselves. The whole period of COVID-19 isolation and for the entire period of sickness for those who contract COVID-19 will be paid out, at an expected cost of \$126 million to cover an estimated 27,000 people.

The sick leave subsidy is not available to those who can work from home, as employers are expected to meet normal sick leave and other entitlements.

In addition, \$2.8 billion of tax cuts will be introduced for businesses, including interest waivers for some late payments and a higher provisional tax threshold, among others.

\$500 million will be made available for the health system.

Beneficiaries and super-annuitants will receive significant increases too.

The Minister of Finance has promised that this is 'just the start' and that this year's budget will be recast as the 'recovery Budget'.

Comment

This is likely to provide much-needed relief for employers and their staff alike, especially the promise of early payments.

SIMPLE TEMPLATE

A few members have enquired about a Covid-19 policy. As this illness is a communicable disease, it is covered by any policy you may have on that. Smaller businesses may not, so we have published a basic

template on the WGANZ website, to help you create your own. You'll find it with the other Advicewise documents and guides, in the members' section.

This article is brought to you by the Window and Glass Association's free employment helpline 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the article above, please call Philip or Anthony on the helpline.
