

WGANZ COVID-19 BULLETIN 11 February 2021

COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment (STAP)

Government has announced another payment to ease the consequences of COVID-19. The [COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment](#) is available for businesses, including self-employed people, to help pay their employees who cannot work from home **while they wait for a COVID-19 test result**.

The test must have been taken on or after 9 February 2021. You will be able to make an application up to 8 weeks after the test. It can be applied for **once, for each eligible worker, in any 30-day period** (unless a health official or doctor tells the employee to get another test).

If the employee tests positive you can apply for the [COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme](#) to help pay their wages.

Paying wages to staff

STAP is a one-off payment of \$350 for each eligible worker, whether full or part-time.

Where the employee is entitled to be paid for the absence by law (eg under their employment agreement or sick leave under the Holidays Act), the STAP payment can be used as a subsidy.

Where the employee is not entitled to such payment by law (eg if they have used up their paid sick leave) you:

- should try to pay them as if they had worked that day, or
- where this is not possible, you must pay at least the full amount of the STAP to the employee while they are waiting for the relevant test.

If the employee's usual wages are less than or equal to the STAP, they must be paid their usual wages. Any difference should be used to help pay any other affected staff.

Who can get the STAP

Businesses, including self-employed people, and their employees need to meet certain criteria to apply for the STAP. Businesses can apply for the STAP if they've been advised that their employee, or a self-employed person, is:

- staying home while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, in accordance with [public health guidance](#), or are
- the parent or caregiver of a dependant who is staying home while waiting for their COVID-19 test results, in accordance with public health guidance, and the dependant needs support to do so safely, or are
- a household member or secondary contact (as described in [public health guidance](#)) of someone who is a close contact of a person with COVID-19, and the employee has been advised to stay at home while waiting for the close contact's test results.

This bulletin is brought to you by AdviceWise People - 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the bulletin above, please call Philip or Anthony.