

WGANZ COVID-19 BULLETIN 3 March 2021

COVID-19 Wage Subsidy March 2021

The [Wage Subsidy March 2021](#) is a payment to support employers and self-employed people, so they can continue to pay employees and protect jobs for businesses affected by the rise in alert levels on 28 February 2021.

Eligibility

To qualify, your business needs to experience a 40% decline in revenue over a consecutive 14-day period between 28 February and 21 March, compared to a typical 14-day period between 4 January and 14 February 2021 (6 weeks before the change in Alert Levels). This is available to businesses throughout New Zealand.

Applications

Apply online from 1pm on Thursday 4 March 2021 - payments start from Monday 8 March 2021.

Payment rates

The Wage Subsidy March 2021 will be paid for 2 weeks at the rate of:

- \$585.80 a week for each full-time employee retained (20 hours a week or more)
- \$350 a week for each part-time employee retained (less than 20 hours a week).

You can't get a Wage Subsidy for an employee for the period they're covered by a Leave Support Scheme or Short-Term Absence Payment.

Other COVID-19 support

The [Resurgence Support Payment](#) (RSP) from Inland Revenue is a payment to help support viable and ongoing business or organisations due to a COVID-19 alert level increase to level 2 or higher.

- The last day to apply is 22 March **for the alert level increase on 14 February**.
- Applications will open at 8am on 8 March **for the alert level increase of 28 February**.

Each time the COVID-19 alert level is increased from level 1, the Government may decide to activate the Resurgence Support Payment. It will generally be activated when the period of increased alert level is 7 days or longer, but this is not guaranteed. Once the RSP has been activated it will be available nationally, even if the alert level isn't increased across the whole country.

When the RSP is activated, eligible businesses and organisations can apply to receive the lesser of:

- \$1,500 plus \$400 per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee, up to a maximum of 50 FTEs
- four times (4x) the actual revenue drop experienced by the applicant.

Applications for the payment will open in myIR for eligible business and organisations 7 days after the alert level increase. They will remain open for one month after the return to alert level 1.

It's possible that the Government could decide to activate the RSP multiple times if there are multiple alert level increases from level 1. Businesses and organisations can apply for the RSP each time the it's activated, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

[Current situation](#)

Applications are currently still open to firms affected by the alert level escalation in February 2021. The last day for applications for this event is Monday 22 March 2021. Applicants must demonstrate that the impact to their revenue is **for this alert level period**.

Applications will open for a second round of RSP. Businesses and organisations can apply from 8 March. Applications will remain open for one month after a nationwide return to alert level 1 . Businesses and organisations that have experienced a 30% revenue loss as a result of both periods at higher alert levels will need to make 2 applications by choosing a start date. **They would be eligible for 2 payments.**

The [Leave Support Scheme](#) is available if your employees have been told to self-isolate, or you may be able to get the [Short-Term Absence Payment](#) if your employees must stay at home while waiting for a test result.

This bulletin is brought to you by AdviceWise People, who provide WGANZ's free employment helpline 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the bulletin above, please call Philip or Anthony.