

## COVID-19 financial support for businesses

16 December 2020.

The Government has announced the support that will be available to New Zealand businesses if there's a resurgence of COVID-19.

### Information

## Updated 9 February 2021.

### COVID-19 Short-term Absence Payment

A new COVID-19 Short-term Absence Payment is available from 9am on 9 February 2021. It's to help businesses keep paying eligible workers who:

- cannot work from home and
- need to miss work to stay at home while waiting on a COVID-19 test result (in line with [public health guidance](#)).

There's a one-off payment of \$350 for each eligible worker.

It will also be available to self-employed workers.

Parents or caregivers who need to miss work to support their dependents who are staying at home awaiting a test result will also be eligible.

[COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment](#)

### COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme

The COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme continues to be available.

The payment rates are:

- \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week (full-time rate)
- \$350 for people working less than 20 hours per week (part-time rate).

The Leave Support Scheme is for employees and self-employed people who meet certain health criteria (for example workers who are sick with COVID-19 or meet the other eligibility criteria).

[COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme](#)

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## COVID-19 Wage Subsidy

The Wage Subsidy Scheme will be in place if there is an escalation to Alert Levels 3 or 4 anywhere in New Zealand, for 7 days or more.

Payment rates will be:

- \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week (full-time rate)
- \$350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week (part-time rate).

Support will be provided in two-weekly payments and total support will match the duration at Alert Level 3 or 4 rounded to the nearest fortnight.

As with the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy paid earlier this year, the payment is to support employers (or self-employed people) to pay their employees.

## Resurgence Support Payment

A Resurgence Support Payment will also be available from late-February 2021 for eligible businesses throughout New Zealand, if there's a move to Alert Level 2 or above for 7 or more consecutive days. This one-off payment is to help businesses affected by the Alert Level upgrade with fixed costs.

For more information refer to [COVID-19 financial support for businesses - Work and Income](#) or contact us on 0800 555 8020

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