

# PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE

Senate Bill 5975, RCW 50A.04

# PAID SICK LEAVE

Initiative 1433, RCW 49.46.200; 49.46.210



In 2019, employers in Washington will begin paying premiums for paid family and medical leave.

Starting Jan. 2020, employees will be able to apply for Paid Family and Medical Leave benefits. Benefits will be available for most employees who work at least 820 hours in the qualifying period.

Paid Family and Medical Leave will be a state-run insurance program that is funded by both employers and employees. Eligible employees are assured up to 12 weeks of leave as needed, with partial wage replacement. In certain exceptional cases 16-18 weeks may be taken.

The amount of this benefit varies depending on the employee's weekly wage, median statewide incomes, and other factors.

## Using Paid Family and Medical Leave

Employees may use paid family and medical leave benefits for:

- Bonding after the birth or placement of a child who is under the age of 18.
- The employee's or a family member's serious health condition.
- Certain military connected events, including leave for short-notice deployments, urgent childcare related to military service and post-deployment activities.

## Questions?

Go to: [Paidleave.wa.gov](http://Paidleave.wa.gov)  
or email [paidleave@esd.wa.gov](mailto:paidleave@esd.wa.gov)



As of Jan. 1, 2018, employers in Washington must provide nearly all of their employees with paid sick leave.

Paid sick leave is an employee right, and does not require the payment of premiums by either the employer or the employee. Under the law, employees must accrue paid sick leave at a minimum rate of one hour for every 40 hours worked. This includes part-time and seasonal workers.

Employees are entitled to use paid sick leave beginning on the 90th calendar day after the start of employment. Employees using paid sick leave must be compensated at their normal hourly compensation by their employer for each hour of paid sick leave used.

## Using Paid Sick Leave

Employees may use paid sick leave:

- To care for their health needs or the health needs of their family members.
- When the employee's workplace or their child's school or place of care has been closed by order of a public official for any health-related reason.
- For absences that qualify for leave under the state's Domestic Violence Leave Act.

## Questions?

Go to: <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/SickLeave>  
or contact the L&I Employment Standards Program:  
1-866-219-7321 or [esgeneral@Lni.wa.gov](mailto:esgeneral@Lni.wa.gov)



It is important to note that paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave have two different sets of requirements. Both requirements include strictly-enforced measures that prevent employers from retaliating against employees in any way for the exercise of either or both rights.