

COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

This payment is for workers and self-employed people who cannot work in the short term because they have been medically certified to self-isolate due to exposure to COVID-19 or because they are ill due to COVID-19.

Who can apply?

If you are suspected of having COVID-19 and have been advised to self-isolate by a doctor or the HSE or if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you can apply for the enhanced Illness Benefit.

To qualify for the payment, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 66
- Have a medical certificate called a 'Certificate of incapacity for work' from a doctor or have a text or letter notification from the HSE to support your application
- Be employed or self-employed and have worked in the 4 weeks before the date of your medical certification
- Have a current contract of employment, if you are an employee.

Sean (24) works in a garage and has been informed by the HSE that he has been exposed to COVID-19 through one of his co-workers, who has tested positive for the virus. Sean will need to self-isolate for 2 weeks. He can apply for the COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit and should include evidence of the notification from the HSE with his application.

What is the rate of payment?

The COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit is a payment of **€350** per week.

If you have a spouse or partner and/or children, you may receive an increase in your payment for these dependents.

If you need to self-isolate because you have been exposed to COVID-19, the benefit is paid for a maximum of 2 weeks.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, it is paid for a maximum of 10 weeks. If your medical certificate is for fewer than 10 weeks, you will be paid for the duration of your medical certificate.

You should continue to talk to your doctor about your diagnosis and the length of time you are medically unfit for work because of COVID-19.

How can I apply?

We won't give up until cancer does



You can apply online at www.mywelfare.ie

This is the quickest and easiest way to apply. You will need to provide information on the following:

- Yourself – details about you, your address and your relationship status
- Children – details of any children you may have, including their [PPS numbers](#)
- Payment method – details of your account in a financial institution, e.g. bank account
- Employment – details of your current employment

Your doctor will need to complete a medical certificate on your behalf. Your doctor can send the certificate directly to the Department of Social Protection or you can send it by email to illnessenquiry@welfare.ie or by post to:

**Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Illness Benefit – P.O. Box 1650
Dublin 1**

If you have been identified during contact tracing as someone who has been in contact with a person with COVID-19, you will get a text or a letter from the HSE with an instruction to self-isolate. You can email an image of this letter or text along with your name and PPS number to illnessenquiry@welfare.ie

The information above is an overview of COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Contact your Medical Social Worker