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Factsheet for case MT-2020-13/275

Medical benefit for COVID-19 risk group who can't carry out their work

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Country	Malta, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 28 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income protection beyond short-time work – Paid sick leave
Case created	04 April 2020 (updated 01 May 2020)

Background information

Individuals who are employed in the private sector and after 27 March 2020 due to COVID-19, were ordered not to leave home by the Superintendent of Public Health because they suffer from one or more of several medical conditions, and are not able to work from home and are not being paid by their employer during their absence are eligible for this benefit.

Eligible individuals will continue to have their social security contribution paid and future pension rights safeguarded, whilst also receiving other benefits.

Content of measure

Individuals eligible are those ordered to not to leave home by the Superintendent of Public Health because they suffer from one or more of several medical conditions including: diabetes and is dependent on insulin; on biological medicines; had cancer in the previous 6 months; is immuno-suppressed; undergoing renal dialysis; is pregnant; admitted to hospital for respiratory disease over the previous 6 months; had a heart condition in the previous 6 months; attending the heart failure clinic; are on oral steroids. Furthermore, the individual works full-time or part-time in the private sector, cannot work from home and is not being paid by their employer during their absence; have not yet reached retirement age.

Eligible individuals will receive €166.15 per week if they worked full time, or 103.85 if they worked part time.

Individuals will continue to have their social security contribution paid and future pension rights safeguarded, will continue to receive children's allowance if eligible (and may be upgraded to maximum level due to new income), if entitled to other benefits these will continue without deductions.

Use of measure

No estimates are currently available.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Social insurance	Employees The COVID-19 risk group All companies	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Consulted
Form of involvement	Bi-or tripartite social dialogue bodies

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact upon business, and following consultation with social partners, the government initially announced a package of measures which included the deferral of taxes and financial support to incentivise telework. Following this announcement, employer associations publicly announced that these were insufficient and would not protect their businesses or jobs, stating the government instead needed to subsidise wages. These calls continued when on the 18th March, the government announced further measures including support for those who had lost their job, the disabled, and for employers to subsidise quarantine leave. On the 24th of March, the government announced a third package of measures which included support for wages and other measures previously announced. The current measure emerged following this conference. This third package of measures was announced by the government whilst flanked by union and employer association members. It was announced that this package was the result of tripartite consultation. Furthermore, following announcement of these further measures, employer associations announced their satisfaction with the package.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 27 March 2020: Covid-19 - Medical Benefit