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Factsheet for case SK-2020-13/386

Introduction of pandemic sickness benefit

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Country	Slovakia, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 27 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income support to workers and those laid off – Paid sick leave
Case created	08 April 2020 (updated 23 April 2020)

Background Information

A special sickness benefit for persons in obligatory quarantine due to the Covid-19 was introduced by the amendment of the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social insurance. The purpose of this measure is to help persons to overcome their lower income during quarantine. A further goal is to contain the costs for employers which might have to pay wage compensation to the employees on a sick leave for not quarantine-related reasons.

Content of measure

In case of obligatory quarantine, the benefit is paid by the Social Insurance Agency from the first day of quarantine at the level of 55% of gross wage (approx. 70% of net wage).

The person with diagnosed Covid-19 contacts his or her physician by phone or email. The physician sends the form to the Social Insurance Agency. Sick person also must inform his or her employer about the quarantine. There have been differences from the regular sickness benefit applied in other reasons than Covid-19. In these other cases, the first ten days of sick leave are paid by the employer as a wage compensation (25% of gross wage during first three days and 55% of gross wage from the fourth to the 10th day). The sickness benefit is paid by the Social Insurance Agency from the 11th day of the sickness (55% of gross wage).

Not all persons in obligatory quarantine with Covid-19 are eligible for this benefit. They have to have paid sickness benefit insurance at least 270 days in the course of two years before the sickness - same as in other cases.

Use of measure

The number of beneficiaries is not available yet.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Social insurance	employees self-employed solo-self-employed One person or microenterprises	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

There is no involvement of trade unions and employers representatives.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 25 March 2020: Explanatory statements of the amendment of the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social insurance (www.nrsr.sk)
- 06 April 2020: Pandemic sickness benefit. MPSVR SR. (www.employment.gov.sk)
- 06 April 2020: How to apply for sickness benefit. (www.socpoist.sk)
- 06 April 2020: Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social insurance as amended (www.slov-lex.sk)