



# Coronavirus Update

March 18, 2020

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## San Francisco will pay sick leave to private sector workers to ease strain of coronavirus impact

San Francisco will provide paid sick leave to all private sector workers who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, the city announced this week. The plan includes \$10 million in financial assistance for employers so they are able to provide an additional five days of paid sick leave to workers beyond the employer's existing policies.

The city will provide up to an additional 40 hours of paid sick leave at the city's minimum wage of \$15.59 per hour per employee, or \$623 per employee. The employer must agree to extend its sick leave policies and pay the difference between the subsidy and the employee's hourly wage during the sick leave.

The program is available when employees are:

- Sick
- Self-quarantined to prevent spread
- Caring for a sick family member
- Home because of a temporary work closure in response to a public official's recommendation, or
- Caring for a child who is home because of school or child care closures in response to a public official's recommendation.

If the employer agrees to extend its existing sick leave policies, this program will subsidize additional sick leave pay for employees who have exhausted all available sick leave under their employer's standard policy, and exhausted or are ineligible for other federal or state supplemental sick leave.

All San Francisco businesses are eligible, and the city is reserving 20% of the funds it is setting aside for the program for small businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

### Business assistance

The city has also launched efforts to support small businesses during this crisis by deferring business taxes and licensing fees, launching a relief fund for impacted businesses, supporting nonprofits funded by the city so workers don't lose their incomes, working with partners in the philanthropic and private sector, and advocating for state and federal support for workers and businesses.

The California Employment Development Division (EDD) is granting a 60-day extension to file state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest for employers experiencing hardship from the coronavirus. For the most up-to-date information, visit [California EDD's coronavirus resource page](#).

The city has established a fund administered by the city's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OWED) to offer emergency grants up to \$10,000 for microbusinesses. Businesses must be able to show a recent loss in revenue. For more information, visit COVID-19 Small Business Resiliency Fund, or contact [investSF@sfgov.org](mailto:investSF@sfgov.org).

OWED also helps small businesses work with their landlords for lease negotiation, legal consultation and related services.

*Suzanne Bach, J.D.*  
*Compliance Services*

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