

Spring 2021: Caregiving during COVID-19 in Rhode Island

In March 2020, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan. This law makes new changes to Unemployment Insurance, Federal Emergency Paid Leave, and Federal Sick Day benefits that affect the options available to Rhode Islanders who find themselves needing to take care of loved ones as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues. Please see the updated caregiving options below.

Scenario #1: You need time off from work to care for a loved one who is sick/quarantining due to COVID-19

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is available for this scenario.

- UI will provide up to **79 weeks** off through **9/6/21 at partial pay**
- All UI recipients will **automatically receive an additional \$300 per week** on top of their regular benefit rate until 9/6/21
- For more detailed information, see [EPI's latest UI Fact Sheet](#)
- Apply: online at dlt.ri.gov/covid19/

Paid Sick Days are available for those who need **only a few hours or days off** for this scenario.

- **RI Paid Sick Days** provide up to **5 days (40 hours)** of time off at your **regular pay** if you work for an employer with 18 or more employees. See [this factsheet](#) for more details.
- **Federal Paid Sick Days** provide up to **10 days (80 hours)** off at **two-thirds of your regular pay**
- You can use BOTH RI Paid Sick Days and Federal Paid Sick Days for a total of 15 days.
- Apply for RI and Federal Paid Sick days through your employer

Federal Emergency Paid Leave and RI Paid Leave are available for those who need **weeks off** for this scenario.

- **Federal Emergency Paid Leave** provides up to **12 weeks off at two-thirds of your regular pay**
 - Apply through your employer
- **RI Paid Leave**, called Temporary Caregivers Insurance (TCI), provides up to **4 weeks** of time off at **60% of your regular pay**
 - Apply [online here](#) through the Department of Labor and Training

Scenario # 2: You need time off from work to care for a child due to COVID-19 school/childcare closures

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is available for this scenario.

- UI will provide up to **79 weeks** off through 9/6/21 at **partial pay**
- All UI recipients will **automatically receive an additional \$300 per week** on top of their regular benefit rate until 9/6/21.
- For more detailed information, see [EPI's latest UI Fact Sheet](#)
- Apply: online at dlt.ri.gov/covid19/

Federal Emergency Paid Leave is available for those who need **weeks off** for this scenario and **Federal Paid Sick Days** is available for those who need **hours or days off** for this scenario.

- **Federal Emergency Paid Leave** provides up to **12 weeks off at two-thirds of your regular pay**
- **Federal Paid Sick Days** provide up to **10 days (80 hours) off at two-thirds of your regular pay**
- Apply for Federal Paid Leave and Sick Days through your employer

Three Important Notes:

- **Your employer is no longer required to provide you with Federal Paid Sick Days or Federal Emergency Paid Leave.** However, your employer may opt to provide you with such leave until **September 30, 2021** so that they can receive a tax credit. If you have already exhausted Federal Paid Sick Days before April 1, 2021, your employer now has the option to provide you with another 10 paid sick days for use between April 1- September 30, 2021.
- **Federal Paid Sick Days and Federal Paid Leave are separate benefits.** You can take 10 days of Federal Paid Sick Days and 12 weeks of Federal Paid Leave, for a total of 14 weeks. In addition, taking these Federal benefits does not impact, reduce, or interact with your Rhode Island Paid Sick Days or Paid Leave benefits. Talk with your employer to see what benefit(s) you are eligible for and which make most sense for you to take.
- Call the RI office for the US Department of Labor for more information or questions (401-528-4669)

See this [Fact Sheet](#) from the Center for Law and Social Policy for more details and important notes

NEED MORE RESOURCES?

For more information on COVID-19, go to:

The Economic Progress Institute- www.economicprogressri.org/covid19

Department of Health COVID19 hotline: 401-222-8022

For Legal Help on Paid Leave/UI: [Rhode Island Legal Services](#)- 401-274-2652