

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE POLICY**

All eligible employees shall be entitled to emergency paid sick leave in compliance with the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act as follows:

**A. Use of Leave.**

All full-time and part-time employees may use emergency paid sick leave if they are unable to work (or telework) before using other accrued paid leave for the following reasons:

1. The employee is subject to a federal, state, or local quarantine, or isolation order related to COVID-19;
2. The employee has been advised by a health-care professional to self-quarantine because of COVID-19;
3. The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
4. The employee has a bona fide need to care for an individual who has been ordered or advised to quarantine or isolate;
5. To care for a child under 18 years old due the unavailability of school or childcare for COVID-19 reasons; or
6. For similar conditions as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**B. Length of Leave and Compensation.**

1. Employees taking leave for reasons 1-3 as set forth above are entitled to two weeks of emergency sick leave at full pay. Part-time employees are entitled to the equivalent of the hours they work on average in a two-week period. This sick leave will not be deducted from an employee's accrued sick leave balance.
2. Employees taking leave for reasons 4-6 as set forth above will receive two-thirds of their regular rate of pay or two-thirds of minimum wage, whichever is greater. Part-time employees are entitled to the equivalent of hours they work on average in a two-week period. For part-time employees who do not work a regular schedule, the two week equivalent will be based on an average number of hours worked in the previous six months.
3. Full-time employees are entitled to eighty (80) hours of pay at their regular rate (up to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total) for leave taken for reasons 1, 2, and 3 as described above and two-thirds of their regular rate of pay if emergency sick leave

is used for reasons 4, 5, and 6 as described above (up to \$200 per day and \$2,000 in total).

4. Employees who exhaust their two weeks of leave under this policy for reasons 1-3 as set forth in section A and are unable to return to work due to that reason may apply for Family Medical Leave pursuant to the County's Family Medical Leave Act provided the employee is otherwise eligible.
5. Employees taking emergency sick leave for reason number 5 in Section A and are unable to return to work after this period due to the unavailability of school or childcare for COVID-19 reasons may apply for Expanded FMLA leave provided by the FFCRA as set forth in County policy.
6. Employees are entitled to a total of two weeks of emergency sick leave under this policy regardless of the reason(s) for the leave.

**C. Employee Notification.**

When an employee is unable to report to work due to illness or other acceptable sick leave reason under the FFCRA, they shall notify the Employer pursuant to current policies and procedures and provide a written explanation as to the need for the leave. An employee must continue such notification each succeeding day of absence except in cases of prolonged illness or absences where the employee has been granted a set period of leave.

Employees taking leave under this policy are expected to engage in conduct consistent with their need for such leave. If circumstances change, employees must notify their supervisor of the new facts so a determination can be made concerning the appropriate leave, if any, that is available to the employee.

Employees found to have falsified the need for leave will be subject to disciplinary action.

**D. Exemptions.**

An employee who is a health care provider or an emergency responder is excluded from the application of this policy pursuant to the FFCRA.

The US Department of Labor has provided the following definitions:

Health Care Provider: According to the US Department of Labor, a health care provider is anyone employed at any doctor's office, hospital, health care center, clinic, post-secondary educational institution offering health care instruction, medical school, local health department or agency, nursing facility, retirement facility, nursing home, home health care provider, any facility that performs laboratory or medical testing, pharmacy, or any similar institution, employer, or entity. This includes any permanent or temporary institution, facility, location, or site where medical services are provided that are similar to such institutions. This definition includes any individual employed

by an entity that contracts with any of the above institutions, employers, or entities institutions to provide services or to maintain the operation of the facility.

Emergency Responder: According to the US Department of Labor, an emergency responder is an employee who is necessary for the provision of transport, care, health care, comfort, and nutrition of such patients, or whose services are otherwise needed to limit the spread of COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to military or national guard, law enforcement officers, correctional institution personnel, fire fighters, emergency medical services personnel, physicians, nurses, public health personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency management personnel, 911 operators, public works personnel, and persons with skills or training in operating specialized equipment or other skills needed to provide aid in a declared emergency as well as individuals who work for such facilities employing these individuals and whose work is necessary to maintain the operation of the facility.

**E. Medical Information.**

The County will maintain employees' medical information in a separate medical file and will treat the information in a confidential manner. Employees who are concerned that their medical information is not being treated in a confidential manner should report such concerns to Kelly Christiansen, Director of Human Resources at (419) 774-5492.

**F. Retaliation.**

An employee will not be retaliated against for exercising her right to emergency sick leave in accordance with this policy.

**G. Expiration.**

This policy is temporary and is in effect from April 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. Emergency paid sick leave accrued under this policy may not be carried over past December 31, 2020. Any unused emergency sick leave will not be paid out under any circumstances.

This policy is subject to amendment or rescission by the Appointing Authority at any time.