

New Emergency Federal & State Legislation Passed in Response to COVID-19

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Hartford is committed to doing all we can to help as the world continues to adjust and adapt to the rapidly changing landscape that is arising in response to COVID-19. New laws are emerging on both the federal and state levels, and we wanted to keep you informed and let you know how we are prepared to respond.

Federal Changes

Congress passed sweeping legislation March 18, 2020 that will deliver economic relief to employees unable to work because of the COVID-19 crisis. The new law requires employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide 10 days of short-term emergency Paid Sick Leave for employees to care for themselves or others due to quarantine or illness and, if needed, 10 weeks of paid FMLA to stay home with a child due school or daycare closings. Employers pay for the benefits and will receive tax credits in return.

As the leader in Leave Management¹, The Hartford is preparing to begin administering the Leave component of the new FMLA provisions as soon as the law takes effect.

See More on The Federal Law

State Changes – New York

The state of New York enacted a new law on March 18, 2020 that requires most employers to provide Paid Sick Leave (PSL) of one to two weeks, depending on employer size and income. Employees needing to be out longer than the new Paid Sick Leave durations are then eligible to receive NY Disability (DBL) or Paid Family Leave (PFL). The law takes effect immediately.

As the leading New York State Disability insurance carrier providing Group Disability, Life, and Absence benefits², The Hartford is preparing to begin administration of the emergency DBL and PFL components of this new law.

See More on The New York Law

We know that this information is continuing to evolve, and are committed to providing updates as appropriate. Please visit our Paid Family and Medical Leave Resource Center and Coronavirus Resource Center where you will find information to help you navigate these unprecedented changes.

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¹ LIMRA 2018 Absence Management / Family Medical Leave In Force Data Report (# Lives Covered).

² 2018 DBL Earned Premium Market Share Survey, GC Smith Group.