

Support for Businesses through who are paying sick pay to employees

All small and medium-sized businesses and employers will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- The refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19
- Employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible - the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28 February 2020
- Employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19
- Employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP (if we look after your payroll this matter is already being dealt with for you), but employees will not need to provide a GP fit note. If evidence is required by an employer, those with symptoms of coronavirus can get an isolation note from [NHS 111 online](#) and those who live with someone that has symptoms can get a note from the [NHS website](#)
- Eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of SSP to those staying at home comes into force
- The government will work with employers over the coming months to set up the repayment mechanism for employers as soon as possible