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**Due to the ever-changing situation with regards Coronavirus, the information provided in this leaflet may become outdated. For the most up to date information you should consult the UK and Scottish Government websites.**

A range of extra support and measures are in place to help workers and benefit claimants affected by COVID-19. People receiving benefits do not have to attend jobcentre appointments for a period of three months, commencing 19 March 2020. People can still make applications for benefits online if they are eligible.

### **Self-Isolation**

In order to reduce the number of people having to ask their Medical Services for certification for self-isolation, the Government has launched an online isolation / sick note which can be used for evidence for absence off work for your employer. To access an isolation note you will have to go online to: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>.

### **Statutory Sick Pay Entitlement**

Statutory Sick Pay entitlement is to be temporarily extended and the Government has announced that people who are off sick because of the coronavirus will be able to claim Statutory Sick Pay (if they are employed and entitled) from Day 1 rather than Day 4 for those who have COVID-19 symptoms and have been told to self-isolate. Statutory Sick Pay is currently £94.25 per week and this will increase to £95.85 per week in April. Employed claimants with little or no other resources will need to make a claim for Universal Credit for help with housing costs and council tax reduction.

### **Self Employed**

To make sure people in work can access financial support the Government has made changes to Statutory Sick Pay and how Universal Credit supports people that are self employed.

For the self-employed, Contributory (New Style) Employment Support Allowance (ESA) will be available from Day1 rather than Day 8 for those affected by the coronavirus or self-isolating.

Those not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay would also have to claim Contributory (New Style) Employment and Support Allowance and / or Universal Credit.

The Minimum Income Floor (an assumed level of income) will be 'temporarily relaxed' for those claiming Universal Credit who are self-employed during the duration of the outbreak and directly affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating.

### **Housing Benefit**

Those already on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction will need to inform of a change of income.

### **Universal Credit**

People will be able to claim Universal Credit and access advance payments without the current requirement to attend the jobcentre.

### **Further Information and Advice**

You can also get further information and advice from the following websites:

<https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-support-for-employees-benefit-claimants-and-businesses>

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>