



Revised arrangements for Special Leave with Pay for Covid-19 in the public service

The application of Special Leave with Pay will change from **07 February 2022**. The rationale for using Special Leave with Pay continues to be to assist in the prevention of the onward spread of COVID-19 in the work premises. The change is to take account of revised isolation periods and the current public health advice.

Special Leave with Pay for COVID-19 will be applicable for a maximum of 10 consecutive calendar days for all new cases. This arrangement¹ applies to individuals advised to self-isolate because they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 and/or have received a positive PCR test result for COVID-19, or, in certain circumstances as outlined on the HSE website, an antigen test. If an employee is unable to return to work after 10 consecutive calendar days they will move to ordinary sick leave arrangements.

The updated arrangement will come into effect for all new cases from **07 February 2022**.

The arrangement relating to the application of Special Leave with Pay for COVID-19 is temporary. This arrangement will be kept under regular review and may change at short notice.

¹ Note that at any stage if an employee states that they feel well enough to work, but have tested positive for COVID-19 or are self-isolating because they were symptomatic, the employer may facilitate working from home instead of special leave with pay, if this is feasible and agreeable to both parties. They must not attend the work premises and must also follow Medical and HSE advice as it relates to self-isolation.