

Keeping Safe & Healthy



Update

Just to keep you updated with the information we have received to date. We all have different questions and needs, so ring us if you are unsure if this applies to you. We can help if you need to make applications for wage subsidies or leave applications. Leave payments can be applied for, for staff or self employed people who are ill with COVID-19 or need to self isolate under the Government guidelines, whether caring for themselves or

dependents. The amounts of the leave subsidy are as per below and can cover 14 days. This needs to be applied for every 14 days and will be available for 8 weeks from 17 March 2020.

The wage subsidy can be applied for where revenue is down more than 30% compared to last year. If for any reason you need to close your business down, this may apply to you. You must have taken steps to mitigate COVID-19, and make best efforts to retain employees and pay them a minimum of 80% of their normal wage.

- \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week
- \$350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week.

This can cover 12 weeks per employee and up to a maximum of \$150,000 per business. Each business can get this only once.

For more information please see Government fact sheets, see <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/index.html#null>. The application forms are here <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-support.html#null>

Mitigating the Risk



What are you doing to reduce the risk to yourselves and your staff and customers?

These are some of the things we are thinking about:

- Providing hand sanitisers, soap and hand washing facilities
- Spraying machinery and vehicles, and wiping desk tops and keyboards with sanitisers
- Zoom/Skype meetings
- No handshakes
- Keeping staff away from close contact with others
- Create a policy to show you are doing something, and make sure staff are advised
- Keeping fit
- Take vitamins
- I sound like my grandmother!!



IRD Assistance

IRD have also announced a package, one part of that package proposes to give Inland Revenue the ability to remit use of money interest (UOMI) for businesses or individuals who are unable to make their payments on time due to the impact of COVID-19.

In brief, this could apply for all payments due on or after 14 February 2020, and could be remitted for a maximum of two years past the date of enactment, but the actual length will depend on the circumstances of each business. These changes are contingent on legislation being passed.

It's proposed that any business or individual that has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak could receive the remissions. Once legislation is passed Inland Revenue will create guidelines to help us establish whether our clients might be eligible. If you are having cash flow issues, we may be able to help by creating arrangements with IRD.

Keep safe and keep in touch.

Kind Regards

Rachel Balme
0273897903