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Vaccination and FFCRA Updates

1 message

University of Maine System <umshr@maine.edu>

Mon, Mar 29, 2021 at 6:20 PM

Reply-To: umshr@maine.edu

To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu



March 29, 2021

Important Information About FFCRA Benefits and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

On Thursday, March 11, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The University of Maine System has elected to continue to provide Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) benefits to eligible employees through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The expanded use of FFCRA through the ARPA helps individuals and their families meet the variety of challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new benefits under FFCRA/ARPA are effective April 1 through September 30, 2021.

What's New?

- FFCRA Sick Leave and Family Care benefits of 80 hours (prorated for part-time employees) will begin anew on April 1, 2021, regardless of prior usage.
- The legislation added reasons for using sick leave to include vaccination-related time, such as getting vaccinated or recovering from the health-related effects of a vaccination.
- The American Rescue Plan Act also extended FFCRA Emergency Family Medical Leave Act (EFMLA) benefits through September 30, 2021. EFMLA benefits have been expanded to a total period of 12 weeks up to a maximum of \$12,000.

Important Information about Time Reporting for the COVID-19 Vaccination:

You may recall, on March 5, [Chancellor Malloy authorized all UMS managers to help make vaccination a workplace priority](#) and provide faculty and staff with the flexibility needed to get vaccinated when appropriate.

In addition, the Chancellor authorized two hours paid administrative leave (COVID Leave for time reporting) for anyone to use to get their first vaccination.

Time used under the relevant FFCRA vaccination time reporting code and any other FFCRA Sick Leave/Family Care time taken cannot exceed 80 hours in total.

To record time for COVID-19 vaccinations obtained during scheduled working hours, use the following time reporting codes:

Prior to April 1:

- Use "COVID Leave" not to exceed two hours

April 1 or after:

- FFVXH (for hourly employees)

- FFVXS (for salaried employees)
- COVID Leave time

For more details on how to enter your vaccination related time on your timesheet, please visit: <https://gojira.its.maine.edu/confluence/display/HumanRes/HR+Operations+Coronavirus+COVID-19+Information>

To apply for FFCRA benefits for reasons other than the use of a vaccine, please complete the [online form](#).

For more information on FFCRA or the ARPA, please contact your HR Partner or Employee Benefits Center at benefits@maine.edu or 1-207-973-3373.

Your HR Team

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