

CAS

Welfare
Rights



What Can You Claim during the Coronavirus?

Dundee advice agency edition

For more detailed advice contact:

Council Advice Service phone:
01382 431188

between 9.30am - 4.30pm

Monday to Friday

(press option 2) or

email: welfare.rights@dundeecity.gov.uk



For more detailed advice contact:

Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau:
01382 307494 between 10.00am
- 3.00pm Monday to Friday or
email:

bureau@dundecab.casonline.org.uk



**Brooksbank Debt & Benefits
Advice Centre**

For more detailed advice contact

Brooksbank: 01382 432450

between 9.30am - 4.30pm,

Monday to Friday or email:

admin@brooksbankcentre.co.uk

The Dundee City Council logo, featuring a stylized mountain range and the text "Dundee City Council".
**CHANGING
FOR THE FUTURE**

Have you been made redundant or laid off?

- You may be entitled to the new benefit **Universal Credit**. This will cover your living costs and your rent.
- **How much you will get** depends on your circumstances, i.e. whether you have children, your partner's income, or any other income and savings you have.
- **Make a claim online** at: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit or phone 0800 328 5644
- You normally need to **attend an appointment at the JobCentre** to provide proof of ID and proof of rent and any income or savings.
- Claiming as a jobseeker usually means **looking for work and signing on**, but follow the advice provided by the DWP/your work coach as Government advice about **social distancing** may change in the future.

EXCEPTIONS

- **If you have worked without too many gaps for the last 2 to 3 years**, you are likely to have enough NI contributions to qualify for **contribution-based (new style) Jobseeker's Allowance JSA**. You can make a claim for contributory (new style) JSA by phone: 0800 055 6688. You may also qualify for a top-up of Universal Credit, for example for your rent (unless you already claim housing benefit).

Are you self-isolating or ill due to Covid-19 (or caring for someone who is?)

CASE 1: If you are employed

- Claim **Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)** from your employer from Day 1. Your employer may also provide additional contractual sick pay.
- **Phone NHS 111** for a fit note (instead of your GP) to give to your employer.
- Once SSP comes to an end **after 28 weeks** (not before), see Case 2.

CASE 2: If you have been laid off

- **If you have enough NI contributions**, you may be able to make a claim contributory (new style) ESA Employment Support Allowance. You can make a claim by phoning 0800 055 6688
- **If you don't have enough NI contributions or if you also have rent costs**, claim Universal Credit. Apply online: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit or phone 0800 328 5644.
- You won't have to attend and appointments at the JobCentre to start your claim, and won't have to attend any medicals to prove you are unfit for work if you are affected by the coronavirus.

If in doubt, get advice

Are you waiting for a medical for ESA/PIP?

- All face-to-face assessments for sickness and disability benefits have been **suspended** for 3 months with effect from 17 March 2020.
- You will be notified by the DWP about any alternative arrangements which may involve either telephone or paper-based assessments.
- **If you claimed ESA because you are affected by the coronavirus because you have symptoms or are self-isolating** (or need to care for someone who is), you won't have to attend any medical to prove you are unfit for work.
You can get a fit note from NHS 111.

Are you self-employed?

- Claim Universal Credit. **Make a claim online** at: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit or **phone** 0800 328 5644.
- If you claim Universal Credit and you are directly affected by coronavirus or self-isolating, the **Minimum Income Floor** won't apply to you for the duration of the outbreak. This means your **actual** self-employment earnings will be taken into account each month - not estimated earnings based on how much you're supposed to work each month.

In summary

