



FMLA Leave Expansion and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy Due to COVID-19

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). This policy will provide eligible employees with leave and paid sick leave. This policy takes effect on April 1, 2020 and will expire on December 31, 2020. Employees who are seeking a leave for reasons outside of this policy may still be eligible under Employer's other leave policies such as the Family Medical Leave Act policy and/or the General Leave of Absence policy. Please refer to those policies for additional information on non-FFCRA leaves of absences.

For the purpose of this policy, "son or daughter" means the employee's own child under the age of 18, which includes biological, adopted, or foster children, your stepchildren, legal wards, children for whom the employee is standing in loco parentis—someone with day-to-day responsibilities to care for or financially support a child. The definition also includes an adult son or daughter (i.e., one who is 18 years of age or older), who (1) has a mental or physical disability, and (2) is incapable of self-care because of that disability.

Emergency FMLA Leave¹

Employee Eligibility

All employees who have been employed with Decatur Public Library for at least 30 days prior to the date they wish the leave to start.

Reason for Leave

Eligible employees who are unable to work (or telework) due to a need to care for their son or daughter when the school or place of care has been closed, or their regular childcare provider is unavailable, due to a public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.

Amount of Leave

Employees will have up to 12 weeks of leave to use from April 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. This time is included in and not in addition to the total FMLA leave entitlement of 12 weeks in a 12-month period. (FMLA employers only).

Amount of Pay

Leave is unpaid during the first ten working days. Employees may elect to use any accrued and applicable paid vacation, sick or personal leave during this time, including time available under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (discussed below).



For the remainder of the leave, employees will be paid 2/3 their regular rate of pay (calculated as 2/3 of their rate of pay multiplied by the number of hours the employee would otherwise be scheduled to work). In no circumstances will that pay exceed \$200 per day, and \$10,000 in total, per employee. Any unused portion of this pay will not carry over beyond the calendar year nor will it pay out upon termination of employment. The employee **may** use other accrued paid time off to bring the employee's rate of pay to 100% during the leave. The use of any such paid time does not increase the amount of leave the employee is entitled to under this Act.

Benefits During Leave

The Organization will continue the employee's health benefits during the leave period at the same level and under the same conditions as if the employee had continued to work. While on paid leave, the employer will continue to make payroll deductions to collect the employee's share of the premium. During any unpaid portions of leave, the employee must continue to make this payment. This should be arranged with Library Administration. If the employee does not continue these pre-arranged benefit payments, the Organization may discontinue coverage during the leave. If the employer maintains coverage while the employee is on leave, the employer may recover the costs incurred for paying the employee's share of any premiums, whether or not the employee returns to work.

Employees **will** accrue employment benefits, such as vacation pay and sick/personal pay, etc. while on leave.

Notice and Documentation Required

All employees requesting this leave must provide written notice of the need for leave to Library Administration as soon as practicable. The request must include: the name and age of the child (or children) to be cared for; the name of the school that has closed or place of care that is unavailable; and, a statement that no other person will be providing care for the child during the period for which the employee is receiving family medical leave. If the employee is requesting leave for the need to provide care for a child older than fourteen during daylight hours, the employee must provide a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care.

Carryover

Emergency paid family leave under this policy will not be provided beyond December 31, 2020. Any unused paid sick leave will not carry over to the next year or be paid out to employees.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

This leave may be taken intermittently (in separate blocks of time) or on a reduced hours basis with the agreement of Decatur Public Library Administration and the employee if the employee is unable to work or telework.

Job Restoration

An employee who returns to work from an approved FMLA leave of absence is entitled to return to his or her job or an equivalent position without loss of benefits or pay.

Emergency Paid Sick Leave

Eligibility

All employees unable to work (or telework) due to one of the following reasons for leave:

1. The employee is subject to a federal, state or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
2. The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
3. The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
4. The employee is caring for an individual who is subject to either number 1 or 2 above.
5. The employee is caring for his or her child if the school or place of care of the child has been closed, or the childcare provider of such child is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.
6. The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

Amount and Reasons for Leave

All eligible full-time employees will have up to 80 hours of emergency paid sick leave available to use for the qualifying reasons above. Eligible part-time employees are entitled to the number of hours worked, on average, over a two-week period.

Amount of Pay

Emergency paid sick leave will be paid at the employee's regular rate of pay for leave taken for reasons 1-3 above, subject to the caps, described below. Employees taking leave for reasons 4-6 will be compensated at two-thirds their regular rate of pay, also subject to the caps described below. Pay will not exceed:

- \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total per employee for leave taken for reasons 1-3 above;
- \$200 per day and \$2,000 in total per employee for leave taken for reasons 4-6 above.

Interaction with Other Paid Leave

² Generally, an employee who takes Emergency FMLA leave will be able to return to the same position or a position with equivalent status, pay, benefits and other employment terms. If the position the employee held before leave started no longer exists due to economic conditions or operational changes that are made because of the public health emergency, and no equivalent position is available, the employee will not be returned to employment. However, for the period of one year after qualifying leave under this policy ends, the Organization will make reasonable efforts to contact the employee if an equivalent position becomes available.

The employee may use emergency paid sick leave under this policy before using any other accrued paid time off for the qualifying reasons stated above.

If an employee is using emergency family medical leave, the employee may use emergency paid sick leave during the first ten days of unpaid emergency FMLA. The use of emergency paid sick leave during the first two weeks of emergency family medical leave will not extend the time off available under the emergency family medical leave act. During the first ten days, the employee may also choose to go unpaid or use other paid time off. During the remaining 10 weeks, the employee **must** use any available vacation, sick or personal time to supplement pay available under the law.

Notice and Documentation Required

All employees requesting this leave must provide written notice of the need for leave to Human Resources as soon as practicable. The request must include: the employee's name; the date or dates for which leave is requested; a statement of the COVID-19 related reason the employee is requesting leave as well as written support for such reason; and, a statement that the employee is unable to work or telework.

If the employee is requesting the leave due to a quarantine, the employee must also include: the name of the governmental entity ordering quarantine or the name of the health care professional advising self-quarantine; and, if the person subject to quarantine or advised to self-quarantine is not the employee, that person's name and relationship to the employee.

If the leave request is based on a school closing or child care provider unavailability, the statement from the employee should include: the name and age of the child (or children) to be cared for; the name of the school that has closed or place of care that is unavailable; and, a representation that no other person will be providing care for the child during the period for which the employee is receiving the leave. If the request is based on the employee's inability to work or telework because of a need to provide care for a child older than fourteen during daylight hours, the employee should also include a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care.

Carryover

Emergency paid sick leave under this policy will not be provided beyond December 31, 2020. Any unused paid sick leave will not carry over to the next year or be paid out to employees.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

Emergency paid sick leave for qualifying reasons related to COVID-19 must be taken in full-day increments. It cannot be taken intermittently if the leave is being taken because:

- The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
- The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;

- The employee is caring for an individual who either is subject to a quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The only exception is that employees may take sick leave on a reduced schedule for the above reasons if they are able to, and want to, telework, with the agreement of the Organization. Unless the employee is teleworking, once the employee begins taking emergency paid sick leave for one or more of these qualifying reasons, the employee must continue to take emergency paid sick leave each day until the employee either (1) use the full amount of paid sick leave or (2) no longer has a qualifying reason for taking paid sick leave.

The employee may take emergency paid sick leave intermittently, if the employee wants to, with the agreement of the Organization, if the employee is taking emergency paid sick leave to care for the employee's child whose school or place of care is closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, because of COVID-19 related reasons.

Job Protections

Employees who take emergency paid sick leave will not be retaliated or discharged for doing so.

Approved by the Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees
June 18, 2020

Policy extended through June 30, 2021 by Board of Trustees
January 21, 2021

Policy extended through December 31, 2021 by Board of Trustees
August 19, 2021