
**Emergency Paid Leave for
COVID-Related Absences**
From: CAO Fred Steckler

Dear Colleagues,

The American Rescue Plan Act established Emergency Paid Leave (EPL) to provide leave for certain COVID-19 related absences. As a reminder, the Excused Absence for Dependent Care Leave Program (EADC) expires and is not available for use after June 5, 2021. If you qualify, you may use EPL through September 30, 2021. You may also request EPL retroactive to March 11, 2021.

To qualify for EPL, you must complete the [EPL request form](#) and [EPL agreement form](#). You must also provide [supporting documentation](#) that you are unable to work (including telework) due to one of the qualifying circumstances below.

- 1) Being subject to a federal, state, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
- 2) Being advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- 3) Caring for someone who is subject to quarantine or isolation orders or advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine.
- 4) Experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and actively seeking a medical diagnosis.
- 5) Caring for your child whose school or daycare is closed or who is participating in virtual learning instruction.
- 6) Caring for a family member incapable of self-care.
- 7) Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine or recovering from any illness or condition related to such immunization.
- 8) Experiencing other qualifying reasons (as determined by OPM).

You can find [more details in this EPL qualifying circumstances document](#).

Important information about EPL is provided below. Additional information and details are available on the Office of Human Resources [EPL intranet page](#). You may also contact

COVID-19questions@uspto.gov, if you have more questions.

Thank you for your service during these challenging times.



Best,

Fred Steckler
Chief Administrative Officer
United States Patent and Trademark Office

[OCAO home](#) | [PTOWeb Home](#) | [USPTO.gov](#)

