



COVID-19: Changes to 99 modern awards

Yesterday the Fair Work Commission (FWC) confirmed its proposed variations to modern awards.

The FWC will update each modern award over the coming days to include Schedule X, which will set out the variations. Schedule X operates from 8 April 2020 until 30 June 2020 but may be extended.

The FWC indicated that these changes were part of 'phase 1'. It is foreseeable that these changes may extend to other modern awards in due course or that the FWC may propose further variations to these 99 modern awards and others.

A summary of the variations are:

 Pandemic Leave	
What is the entitlement? 2 weeks' unpaid leave if required to self-isolate or otherwise prevented from working because of COVID-19.	The fine print <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice and evidence required.• The leave counts as service.• Taking pandemic leave is a 'workplace right'.
 Annual leave at half pay	
What is the entitlement? Employee and employer may agree to the employee taking twice as much leave on half pay.	The fine print <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking leave at half pay is a 'workplace right'• The agreement must be recorded in writing and retained as an employee record.