

04/20: JSA and UC: Coronavirus Further Measures

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[See Memo [ADM 05/20](#), Memo [ADM 15/20](#) Memo [ADM 11/21](#) and Memo [ADM 15-21](#)]

INTRODUCTION

1. This memo gives guidance on

- 1.** the Social Security (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regulations¹ which came into force on 30.3.20 **and**
- 2.** the Universal Credit (Extension of Coronavirus Measures) Regulations² which came into force on 6.4.21.

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs; [SI 2020 No. 371](#); 2 UC (Ext of Coronavirus Measures) Regs; [SI 2021 No. 313](#)

2. The regulations cease to have effect on

- 1.** 31.7.21 for those provisions included in the guidance about the minimum income floor at paragraphs 4 – 6¹**and**

2. 31.8.21 for those provisions included in the guidance about JSA periods of sickness at paragraphs 16 – 20².

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 10(2A); 2 reg 10(2B)

3. The regulations

1. give the Secretary of State discretion to apply a number of measures in relation to the minimum income floor (MIF) for self-employed UC claimants
2. modify the amount of the standard allowance in UC
3. dis-apply the application of periods of sickness in JSA for those affected by Coronavirus disease.

UC: MINIMUM INCOOR FLOOR (MIF)

4. The MIF normally applies from the start of the award or at the end of the start-up period to UC claimants who¹

1. are gainfully self-employed **and**
2. would otherwise fall within the all work-related requirements group.

Note: See [Chapter H4](#) (Earned income – self-employed earnings) for detailed guidance on the MIF, and [Chapter J2](#) (Work related groups) for guidance on work-related requirements.

1 UC Regs, reg 62

5. From 30.3.20 the DM has discretion to apply a number of measures in relation to the MIF for self-employed claimants as a consequence of the outbreak of Coronavirus disease.

6. The measures allow the DM to¹

1. treat the amount of the individual or couple threshold² as if it were a lesser amount (including nil)
2. delay making a determination as to whether a claimant is in gainful self-employment³
3. where it has already been determined that the claimant is in gainful self-employment, treat the claimant as not being in gainful self-employment
4. where a claimant is in a start-up period⁴, extend that period for as long as considered appropriate
5. where a self-employed claimant would otherwise fall within the all work-related requirements

group⁵, except the claimant from a work search requirement⁶ or a work availability requirement⁷.

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 2; 2 UC Regs, reg 62(4) and 90(2) & (3); 3 reg 64; 4 reg 63;
5 WR Act 12, s 22; 6 s 17; 7 s 18

UC: STANDARD ALLOWANCE AMOUNTS

7. Guidance on the UC standard allowance amounts for the purpose of the maximum amount is at [E2173](#).

CHANGES FROM 6.4.20

8. The amounts are increased from the first day of the first assessment period which commences on or after 6.4.20¹ – see [Memo ADM 03/20](#) for details and where to find the amounts.

1 SI 2020 No. 234

9. The amounts for the purpose of any case affected by the Coronavirus further measures are to be read as if they were¹:

Standard allowance	Amount
Single claimant under 25	£342. 72
Single claimant 25 or over	£409. 89
Joint claimants both under 25	£488. 59
Joint claimants where either is 25 or over	£594. 04

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 3(1)

10. These amounts

1. apply to awards of UC from the first day of the first assessment period which commences on or after 6.4.20 **and**

2. continue to apply for the remainder of the tax year beginning on 6.4.20¹.

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 3(2)

CHANGES FROM 6.4.21

11. The amounts are increased from the first day of the first assessment period which commences on or after 6.4.21¹ – see [Memo ADM 05/21](#) for details and where to find the amounts.

1 SI 2021 No. 162

12. The amounts for the purpose of any case affected by the Coronavirus further measures are to be read as if they were¹:

Standard allowance	Amount
Single claimant under 25	£344.00
Single claimant 25 or over	£411.51
Joint claimants both under 25	£490.60
Joint claimants where either is 25 or over	£596.58

1 UC (Ext of Coronavirus Measures) Regs, reg 2(1)

10. These amounts apply to awards of UC for any assessment period which ends

1. on or after 6.4.21 **and**

2. before 6.10.21¹.

1 UC (Ext of Coronavirus Measures) Regs, reg 2(1)

TRANSITIONAL ELEMENT

14. [Chapter M7](#) (Managed migration pilot and Transitional protection) gives guidance on the

1. calculation of the indicative UC amount for the purposes of determining any entitlement to the transitional element¹**and**

2. initial amount of the transitional element²**and**

3. reduction of the initial amount by relevant increases³.

1 UC (TP) Regs, reg 54; 2 reg 55(1) & (2)(a); 3 reg 55(2)(b), (c) & (4)

15. When calculating any of the amounts in paragraph 14, the modified amounts in paragraphs 9 and 12 are disregarded. The amounts referred to in [E2173](#) and the updated amounts referred to in [Memo ADM 03/20](#) or [Memo ADM 05/21](#) apply instead¹.

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 3(3); UC (Ext of Coronavirus Measures) Regs, reg 2(2)

JSA: PERIODS OF SICKNESS

16. Where a JSA claimant

1. is affected by Coronavirus disease as in paragraph 18 below and

2. satisfies the JSA conditions of entitlement apart from the condition that they do not have LCW¹

they are treated as not having LCW².

Note: See [ADM Chapter R2](#) (JSA conditions of entitlement) for guidance on short and extended periods of sickness.

1 JS Act 95 s1(2); 2 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 8(1)

17. Any period where paragraph 16 applies is disregarded for the purposes of calculating short periods and extended period of sickness¹.

1 JSA Regs 13, reg 46(3) & 46A(5); SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 8(2)

18. A person is affected by Coronavirus disease if they are¹

1. infected or contaminated with Coronavirus disease (also known as COVID-19) **or**

2. in isolation (see paragraphs 19 – 20 below) **or**

3. caring for a child or qualifying young person² who is a member of the person's household and who is

3.1 in isolation **or**

3.2 infected or contaminated with Coronavirus disease.

Note: For the purposes of **3.**, a child or qualifying young person is a member of the person's household if they live with the person caring for them.

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 8(2); 2 SS C&B Act 92, s. 142

MEANING OF "ISOLATION"

19. A person is in isolation if they are separate from any other person so as to prevent infection or contamination with Coronavirus disease¹. DMs should have regard to the latest UK Government advice to the public on when they should self-isolate on a case by case basis.

Note: A person can be in isolation when they live with other people such as family members or in multiple occupancy dwellings.

1 SS (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regs, reg 1(2)

20. This does not include where a person

1. has not been advised to isolate **or**
2. is looking after a child or qualifying young person whose school or nursery has been closed **or**
3. is following UK Government advice on social distancing.

ANNOTATIONS

Please annotate the number of this memo (ADM Memo 04/20) against the following ADM paragraphs and memos

[E2173](#), [H4020 main heading](#), [H4060 main heading](#), [H4100 main heading](#), [M7470](#), [M7500 heading](#); [R2942](#), [R2957](#)

[Memo ADM 03/20](#), [Memo ADM 05/21](#)

CONTACTS

If you have any queries about this memo, please write to Decision Making and Appeals (DMA) Leeds, 3E zone E, Quarry House, Leeds. Existing arrangements for such referrals should be followed, as set out in – Memo [7/19](#) Requesting case guidance from DMA Leeds for all benefits.

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