

Newsletter - Entitlement to pandemic nursing/caregiver benefits after 1 September 2020, updated to 28.8.2020

In the context of the beginning of September and the current pandemic situation, some procedures for applying for a pandemic nursing/caregiver benefits (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR) are changing.

Are parents allowed to stay at home with their child and take a nursing/caregiver benefit, at their own discretion (without a doctor's confirmation), if they are concerned that their child will become infected in kindergarten or school? Are parents, resp. relatives allowed to stay at home with a child/adult who is otherwise placed in a social services facility and receive pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR)?

1. In the case of children who are **compulsory school children**, it means if they are pupils of schools, as of September the parent cannot arbitrarily leave the child at home if he/she fears a pandemic, as this would violate the school law. Mode of interruption of teaching in school classes, it means closure of these parts of schools, as of 1 September 2020 will be re-adjusted by a decision of the Minister of Education, which is being prepared.
 - Therefore, only those eligible persons who will take care of children under 11 years of age (up to 18 years of age with children with a long-term unfavorable health condition) **whose class has been closed by the school principal** in accordance with the above-mentioned decision of the Minister of Education will be entitled to pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR).
 - However, if the parent will take care of **a sick child under 16 years of age**, it means a child whose health has suddenly deteriorated and the attending physician has therefore confirmed his need for treatment will also be entitled to pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR) from 1st September 2020.
2. The situation will be different for **children attending kindergarten**. As attendance at a pre-school facility is not mandatory by law, same procedures as before will be applied to this group of children until a possible change in the Social Insurance Act, it means pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR) will be entitled to eligible persons whose child will not attend a class **in a nursery that has been closed and also** to eligible persons whose child does not attend kindergarten **due to coronavirus fear**.
3. **The situation remains unchanged for children who are not yet attending kindergarten and for close relatives who are provided care in social services facilities**, it means the eligible persons will continue to be entitled to pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR) even if they decide not to place a child or a close relative in the facility for fear of coronavirus.

The difference between a "classic" nursing/caregiver benefit and a "pandemic" nursing/caregiver (pandemické ošetrovné/OČR) is that a pandemic **nursing/caregiver benefit** is provided indefinitely throughout the crisis. "Classic" nursing is only provided for 10 calendar days.

Entitlement to pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit is assessed at the first need for treatment or care during a crisis situation. After **submitting an application** for a pandemic nursing and entitlement to the

benefit, the benefit will be paid only if the insured person **submits a solemn declaration at the end of the relevant month** and only for the days during which the insured person personally and fully cared for the child or nursed the child, resp. another close relative.

The information is subject to frequent changes, it is necessary to follow the website of the Social Insurance Agency and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.

Useful links:

The Social Insurance Company - general information

<https://www.socpoist.sk/>

The Social Insurance Company recommends: when are parents entitled to the pandemic nursing/caregiver benefit after 1 September?

<https://www.socpoist.sk/aktuality-socialna-poistovna-odporuca--kedy-maju-rodicia-narok-na-ocr-po-1-septembri-/48411s68873c>

How to apply for a pandemic nursing home (OČR)?

<https://www.socpoist.sk/ako-poziadat-o-nemocensku-davku/68337s#2>

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic - Decisions and guidelines in time of COVID-19

<https://www.minedu.sk/rozhodnutia-a-usmernenia-v-case-covid-19/>

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

<https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/koronavirus-pracovna-socialna-oblast/pracovna-oblast/osetrovne-nemocenske/>

korona.gov.sk

<https://korona.gov.sk/pandemicke-osetrovne-zakladne-info/>