

# Polling on Americans' Awareness of and Intentions to Use New Paid Family Leave and Paid Sick Days Protections

MAY 2020

New polling data finds that nearly 1 in 5 Americans have either taken or plan to take new paid sick and paid family leave protections included in the coronavirus response packages, yet more than half (53 percent) of Americans either aren't aware of or do not believe that they qualify for protections.

When survey respondents were asked if they have taken or anticipate using the new protections<sup>i</sup>:

## **Nineteen percent of Americans say they have taken or plan to use the new leave protections.<sup>ii</sup>**

- **9 percent** say they are using new leave protections for their own illness or isolation.
- **8 percent** say they are using new leave protections due to a family member's isolation/illness.
- **7 percent** say they are using new leave protections to care for a child due to child care or school closure.
- **6 percent** said they took leave, but not because of the new policy.

## **Twenty-eight percent of Americans are unaware of or unsure if they will use new emergency leave protections.**

- **17 percent** of Americans said they were unaware of the new protections.
- **11 percent** are not sure if they will use the new protections.

### **AWARENESS AND INTENTIONS TO USE NEW PROTECTIONS**

- **19 percent** of Americans say they have taken or plan to take new emergency paid sick or paid family leave during the coronavirus crisis.
- **24 percent** of employed Americans say they don't think they qualify for new paid sick and paid family leave protections.
- **28 percent** of Americans say they aren't aware of the new protections or are aren't sure if they will take leave.

## **Twenty-four percent of employed Americans say they do not think they qualify for protections.**

Workers at large employers were excluded from the law, and the law allowed exemptions for health care workers, emergency responders and workers at small employers.

### **Demographics**

- Younger (14 percent) and Black Americans (14 percent) are more likely to take leave to care for themselves.
- Latinx (15 percent) and men (14 percent) are more likely to use leave to care for a family member's isolation/illness.

### **About the poll**

The survey of 1,008 Americans was conducted on May 4-5, 2020. Respondents were invited to select all of the scenarios that apply to them. Crosstabs and additional information about the survey are available by request.

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<sup>i</sup> Question: Under a new national policy, workers must be provided paid sick and family leave to care for themselves or a child who has been directly impacted by the coronavirus (i.e. quarantining themselves because of illness or caring for a child whose school or child care is closed). Have you taken or anticipate using paid sick and family leave for any of the following reasons? Please select all that apply.

<sup>ii</sup> Respondents could choose more than one reason for using new leave protections.

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