

WSR 22-12-076
PERMANENT RULES
OFFICE OF
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
[Filed May 27, 2022, 4:43 p.m., effective July 1, 2022]

Effective Date of Rule: July 1, 2022.

Purpose: To amend chapter 357-31 WAC to align with ESSB 5115 and to align with the COVID-19 response. ESSB 5115 passed during the 2021 legislative session with an effective date of May 11, 2021. This bill added a new section to chapter [49.17](#) RCW (codified as RCW [49.17.062](#)), The Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act. RCW [49.17.062](#) (6)(a) states "during a public health emergency, no employer may discharge, permanently replace, or in any manner discriminate against an employee who is high risk as a result of the employee seeking accommodation that protects them from the risk of exposure to the infectious or contagious disease, or, if no accommodation is reasonable." Employers must allow an employee to use all available leave options including leave without pay. The Washington state department of labor and industries confirmed that leave may be used in any order and employers may not prescribe the type of leave an employee chooses or the order in which leave is taken. In addition, during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain proclamations and requirements impacted employees and their families which resulted in the need to expand the reasons in which certain leave options may be provided to employees beyond the state of emergency; clean up language for consistency; and allow employers to consider approving leave based on workload demands and business needs rather than looking at essential services.

To expand leave options for high-risk employees seeking an accommodation to protect themselves during a public health emergency if the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable, besides the use of leave; expand sick leave use to employees when the employee needs to provide care for a child, household, or family member who has been exposed to a contagious disease and is required to quarantine, or when a child's school or place of care has been closed for health-related reasons; remove references to the emergency proclamation; repeal outdated language addressing an employee's eligibility to use compensatory time in lieu of temporary layoff during the 2009-11 biennium; expand leave with pay options to include COVID-19 booster vaccines; and expand leave without pay options from "essential services" to "current workload demands and business needs."

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 357-31-133; and amending WAC 357-31-070, 357-31-100, 357-31-130, 357-31-145, 357-31-160, 357-31-200, 357-31-230, 357-31-325, 357-31-326, 357-31-327, 357-31-330, 357-31-490, 357-31-567, and 357-31-845.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter [41.06](#) RCW.

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 22-08-030 on March 28, 2022.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 1, Amended 14, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 14, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 1, Amended 14, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: May 27, 2022.

Roselyn Marcus
Assistant Director of Legal
and Legislative Affairs

OTS-3678.3

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-06-008, filed 2/20/20, effective 5/1/20)

WAC 357-31-070 When is an employer required to approve an employee's request to use a personal holiday?

(1) An employer must approve the use of a personal holiday as long as:

- (a) The employee is entitled to a personal holiday in accordance with RCW [1.16.050](#) and WAC 357-31-055;
- (b) The employee has requested the personal holiday in accordance with the employer's leave procedures; and
- (c) The employee's absence does not interfere with the operational needs of the employer.

(2) At any time, an employer must allow an employee to use part or all of the personal holiday for any of the following reasons:

- (a) To care for a minor/dependent child with a health condition that requires treatment or supervision;

(b) To care for a spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law or grandparent of the employee who has a serious health condition or an emergency health condition;

(c) If the employee or the employee's family member is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking as defined in RCW [49.76.020](#). An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730;

(d) In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, for an employee to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, National Guard, or reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment; ~~((or))~~

(e) If the employee requests to use their personal holiday as a supplemental benefit while receiving a partial wage replacement for paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW. Leave taken under this subsection may be subject to verification that the employee has been approved to receive benefits for paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW; or

(f) When a high risk employee, as defined in RCW [49.17.062](#), seeks a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease and the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-019, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/28/20)

WAC 357-31-100 Must an employer have a policy for requesting and approving leave?

Each employer must develop a leave policy which specifies the procedure for requesting and approving all leave, as provided in the civil service rules. The employer's policy must:

(1) Allow an employee to use vacation leave without advance approval when the employee is requesting to use vacation leave to respond to family care emergencies or for an emergency health condition as provided in WAC 357-31-200 (1)(b);

(2) Allow an employee to use a reasonable amount of accrued leave or unpaid leave when the employee is a victim or has a family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking as defined in RCW [49.76.020](#);

(3) Allow an employee to use accrued leave as a supplemental benefit as provided in WAC 357-31-248;

(4) Address advance notice from the employee when the employee is seeking leave under subsections (2) and (3) of this section. When advance notice cannot be given because of an emergency or unforeseen circumstances due to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, the employee or the employee's designee must give notice to the employer no later than the end of the first day that the employee takes such leave;

(5) Allow an employee to use sick leave for the purpose of parental leave to bond with a newborn, adoptive or foster child. The policy must state the total amount of sick leave allowed to be used beyond ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 weeks in accordance with WAC ~~((357-31-130))~~ [357-31-133](#);

(6) Address overtime eligible employees that are required to provide medical certification or verification to their employer for the use of paid sick leave under chapter 296-128 WAC;

(7) Address overtime eligible employees that are required to provide reasonable notice to their employer for an absence from work for the use of paid sick leave under chapter 296-128 WAC; ~~((and))~~

(8) Address whether a general government employee may take additional accrued leave beyond ~~((thirty))~~ 30 days in a two-year period to participate in life-giving procedures in accordance with RCW [41.06.570](#); and

(9) Allow a high risk employee, as defined in RCW [49.17.062](#), seeking a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease to use their accrued leave and leave without pay if the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-025, filed 11/20/20, effective 12/28/20)

WAC 357-31-130 When ~~((may))~~ must an employer allow an employee to use their accrued sick leave?

The employer may require medical verification or certification of the reason for sick leave use in accordance with the employer's leave policy and in compliance with chapter 296-128 WAC.

~~((+))~~ Employers **must** allow the use of accrued sick leave under the following conditions:

~~((+))~~(1). An employee's mental or physical illness, disability, injury or health condition that has incapacitated the employee from performing required duties; to accommodate the employee's need for medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; or an employee's need for preventive medical care.

~~((+))~~(2). By reason of exposure of the employee to a contagious disease when the employee's presence at work would jeopardize the health of others.

~~((+))~~(3) When a high risk employee, as defined in RCW [49.17.062](#), seeks a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease and the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.

(4) To allow an employee to provide care for a child who has been exposed to a contagious disease and is required to quarantine; or when a household or family member needs additional care, not covered by subsection (6) of this section, who has been exposed to a contagious disease and is required to quarantine.

(5). When the employee's place of business has been closed by order of a public official for any health-related reason, or when an employee's child's school or place of care has been closed for such reason.

~~((4))~~(6). To allow an employee to provide care for a family member with a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; care of a family member who needs medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; or care for a family member who needs preventive medical care.

~~((4))~~(7). For family care emergencies per WAC 357-31-290, 357-31-295, 357-31-300 and 357-31-305.

~~((4))~~(8). When an employee is required to be absent from work to care for members of the employee's household or relatives of the employee or relatives of the employee's spouse/registered domestic partner who experience an illness or injury, not including situations covered by subsection ~~((4))~~(6) of this section.

~~((4))~~(a). The employer must approve up to five days of accumulated sick leave each occurrence. Employers may approve more than five days.

~~((4))~~(b). For purposes of this subsection, "relatives" is limited to spouse, registered domestic partner, child, grandchild, grandparent or parent.

~~((4))~~(9). When requested as a supplemental benefit while receiving a partial wage replacement for paid family and/or medical leave under Title 50A RCW as provided in WAC 357-31-248. Leave taken under this subsection may be subject to verification that the employee has been approved to receive benefits for paid family and/or medical leave under Title 50A RCW.

~~((4))~~(10). If the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking as defined in RCW 49.76.020. An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730.

~~((4))~~(11). In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, for an employee to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, National Guard, or reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment.

~~((4))~~(12). When an employee requests to use sick leave for the purpose of parental leave to bond with a newborn, adoptive or foster child for a period up to ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 weeks. Sick leave for this purpose must be taken during the first year following the child's birth or placement.

~~((2))~~ Employers ~~may~~ allow the use of accrued sick leave under the following conditions:

~~(a) For condolence or bereavement;~~

~~(b) When an employee is unable to report to work due to inclement weather in accordance with the employer's policy on inclement weather as described in WAC 357-31-255;~~

~~(c) To bond with a newborn, adoptive or foster child for a period beyond eighteen weeks as allowed in subsection (1)(i) of this section. Sick leave for this purpose must be taken during the first year following the child's birth or placement. The total amount of sick leave allowed to be used, beyond subsection (1)(i) of this section must be addressed in the employer's leave policy in accordance with WAC 357-31-100; or~~

~~(d) When a child is a family member of an employee or member of an employee's household and the child's school or place of care has been closed while proclamation 20-05, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, is in effect.)~~

NEW SECTION

WAC 357-31-133 When may an employer allow an employee to use their accrued sick leave?

The employer may require verification or certification of the reason for sick leave use in accordance with the employer's leave policy.

Employers **may** allow the use of accrued sick leave under the following conditions:

(1) For condolence or bereavement;

(2) When an employee is unable to report to work due to inclement weather in accordance with the employer's policy on inclement weather as described in WAC 357-31-255;

(3) To bond with a newborn, adoptive or foster child for a period beyond 18 weeks as allowed in WAC 357-31-130 (1)(j). Sick leave for this purpose must be taken during the first year following the child's birth or placement. The total amount of sick leave allowed to be used, beyond WAC 357-31-130 (1)(i) must be addressed in the employer's leave policy in accordance with WAC 357-31-100; or

(4) When a child is a family member of an employee or member of an employee's household and:

(a) The child's school or place of care has been closed by order or recommendation of a public official for any health-related reason; or

(b) The child has been exposed to a contagious disease and is required to quarantine.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-08-136, filed 4/6/05, effective 7/1/05)

WAC 357-31-145 When an employee is on vacation leave and a condition listed in WAC 357-31-130~~((4))~~ arises, can the employee use sick leave in place of vacation leave?

When a condition listed in WAC 357-31-130~~((4))~~ arises while the employee is on vacation leave, the employer may allow the employee to use accrued sick leave in place of vacation leave. The employee must request the use of

accrued sick leave in place of vacation leave according to the employer's leave policy.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-08-136, filed 4/6/05, effective 7/1/05)

WAC 357-31-160 When a former employee is re-employed, is sick leave restored?

Former employees who are re-employed within five years of their separation from service must be restored unused sick leave credits, if any, to which they were entitled at the time of separation. The employee may use the restored balance in accordance with WAC 357-31-130 and 357-31-133.

If the employee was retired from government service before being re-employed, when the employee subsequently retires again or dies, only that unused sick leave accrued since the date of reemployment minus that taken within the same period may be compensated per the conversion provisions of WAC 357-31-150.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-06-008, filed 2/20/20, effective 5/1/20)

WAC 357-31-200 When must an employer grant the use of vacation leave?

(1) An employee's request to use vacation leave must be approved under the following conditions:

(a) As a result of the employee's serious health condition.

(b) To care for a spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, or grandparent of the employee who has a serious health condition or an emergency health condition.

(c) To care for a minor/dependent child with a health condition that requires treatment or supervision.

(d) For parental leave as provided in WAC 357-31-460.

(e) If the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking as defined in RCW [49.76.020](#). An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730.

(f) In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, for an employee to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, National Guard, or reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment.

(g) When requested as a supplemental benefit while receiving a partial wage replacement for paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW as provided in WAC 357-31-248.

(h) When a high risk employee, as defined in RCW [49.17.062](#), seeks a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease and the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.

(2) In accordance with the employer's leave policy, approval for the reasons listed in (1)(a) through (g) above may be subject to verification that the condition or circumstance exists or that paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW has been approved.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-06-008, filed 2/20/20, effective 5/1/20)

WAC 357-31-230 When ~~((may))~~ must an employee be granted the use of accrued compensatory time?

(1) Employees must request to use accrued compensatory time in accordance with the employer's leave policy. When considering employees' requests, employers must consider their business needs and the wishes of the employee.

(2) An employee must be granted the use of accrued compensatory time to care for a spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, or grandparent of the employee who has a serious health condition or an emergency health condition, or to care for a minor/dependent child with a health condition that requires treatment or supervision. In accordance with the employer's leave policy, approval of the employee's request to use accrued compensatory time may be subject to verification that the condition exists.

(3) An employee must be granted the use of accrued compensatory time if the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking as defined in RCW [49.76.020](#). An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730.

(4) In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, an employee must be granted the use of accrued compensatory time to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, National Guard, or reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment.

(5) When requested as a supplemental benefit while receiving a partial wage replacement for paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW as provided in WAC 357-31-248. Leave taken under this subsection may be subject to verification that the employee has been approved to receive benefits for approved paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW.

(6) Compensatory time off may be scheduled by the employer during the final ~~((sixty))~~ 60 days of a biennium.

(7) Employers may require that accumulated compensatory time be used before vacation leave is approved, except in those instances where this requirement would result in loss of accumulated vacation leave.

(8) ~~((During the 2009–2011 fiscal biennium only, an employee whose monthly full-time equivalent base salary is two thousand five hundred dollars or less is eligible to use compensatory time in lieu of temporary layoff as described in chapter 32, Laws of 2010.))~~ A high risk employee, as defined in RCW 49.17.062, seeking a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease must be granted the use of accrued compensatory time if the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-01-019, filed 12/3/21, effective 1/3/22)

WAC 357-31-325 When must an employer grant leave with pay for other miscellaneous reasons?

Leave with pay **must** be granted to an employee in accordance with WAC 357-31-320 and for the following reasons:

(1) To allow an employee to receive assessment from the employee assistance program.

(2) When an employee is scheduled to take an examination or participate in an interview for a position with a state employer during scheduled work hours.

(a) Employers may limit the number of occurrences or the total amount of paid leave that will be granted to an employee to participate in an interview or take an examination during scheduled work hours.

(b) Employers may deny an employee's request to participate in an interview or take an examination during scheduled work hours based upon operational necessity.

(3) When an employee is required to appear during working hours for a physical examination to determine physical fitness for military service.

(4) To allow a general government employee to take paid leave, not to exceed ~~((thirty))~~ 30 days in a two-year period to participate in life-giving procedures, such as medical procedures, including testing, sampling, or donation of organs, tissues, and other body components for the purpose of donation, without compensation. For this subsection blood or plasma donations are not considered life-giving procedures.

(a) General government employers may take operational necessity into account and require the employee to provide reasonable advance notice.

(b) Employees must provide written proof from an accredited medical institution, physician, or other medical professional that the employee will or has participated in a life-giving procedure.

(5) To allow a general government employee to take a reasonable amount of leave with pay for the employee to travel and receive each dose or booster of COVID-19 ~~((immunization))~~ vaccine if the vaccine is not offered at the workplace. An employer may authorize leave in excess of one day in extraordinary circumstances, such as to accommodate travel where the vaccine is unavailable locally. The employer may require that the request for leave be supported by documentation, which may include proof of the vaccination. ~~((This subsection is effective until the expiration of proclamation 20-05, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, whichever is later.))~~ This subsection no longer applies if state or federal law otherwise provides paid leave specifically for employees to receive the COVID-19 ~~((immunization))~~ vaccine.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-01-019, filed 12/3/21, effective 1/3/22)

WAC 357-31-326 When may an employer grant leave with pay?

(1) A general government employer **may** grant leave with pay for an employee to perform civil duties as a volunteer including, but not limited to, firefighting, search and rescue efforts, or donating blood. Leave granted to participate in blood and plasma donations must not exceed five days in a two-year period.

(2) A higher education employer may grant leave with pay for an employee to perform civil duties as a volunteer including, but not limited to, firefighting, search and rescue efforts, participating in life-giving procedures, or donating blood. Leave granted to participate in life-giving procedures must not exceed five days in a two-year period.

(3) In the department of natural resources, leave with pay equivalent to one regular workshift **may** be allowed for the purpose of rest and recuperation after ~~((ten))~~ 10 consecutive calendar days performing emergency work under an incident command system, defined in RCW 38.52.010. The employer may grant one additional day of leave with pay for rest and recuperation after ~~((twenty-one))~~ 21 consecutive calendar days performing emergency work under an incident command system.

(4) A general government employer may grant a reasonable amount of leave with pay for an employee to receive each dose or booster of COVID-19 ~~((immunization))~~ vaccine if the vaccine is offered at the workplace. An employer may authorize leave in excess of one day for receipt of the vaccine in extraordinary circumstances, such as to accommodate travel where the vaccine is unavailable locally. The employer may require that the request for leave be supported by documentation, which may include proof of the vaccination. ~~((This subsection is effective until the expiration of proclamation 20-05, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, whichever is later.))~~ This subsection no longer applies if state or federal law otherwise provides paid leave specifically for employees to receive the COVID-19 ~~((immunization))~~ vaccine.

(5) A higher education employer may grant a reasonable amount of leave with pay for an employee to receive each dose or booster of COVID-19 ~~((immunization))~~ vaccine if the vaccine is not offered at the workplace. An employer may authorize leave in excess of one day for receipt of the vaccine in extraordinary circumstances, such as to accommodate travel where the vaccine is unavailable locally. The employer may require that the request for leave be

supported by documentation, which may include proof of the vaccination. ~~((This subsection is effective until the expiration of proclamation 20-05, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, whichever is later.))~~ This subsection no longer applies if state or federal law otherwise provides paid leave specifically for employees to receive the COVID-19 ~~((immunization))~~vaccine.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-06-008, filed 2/20/20, effective 5/1/20)

WAC 357-31-327 When must an employer grant leave without pay?

An employer must grant leave without pay under the following conditions:

- (1) When an employee who is a volunteer firefighter is called to duty to respond to a fire, natural disaster, or medical emergency;
- (2) If the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking as defined in RCW [49.76.020](#). An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730; or
- (3) In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, for an employee to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, National Guard, or reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment.
- (4) When an employee requests a day off for a reason of faith or conscience or an organized activity conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization in accordance with WAC 357-31-052.
- (5) When an employee is on approved paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW. Leave taken under this subsection may be subject to verification that the employee has been approved to receive benefits for paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW and qualifies for employment protection in accordance with RCW [50A.35.010](#).
- (6) When a high risk employee, as defined in RCW [49.17.062](#), seeks a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease and the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-12-020, filed 5/24/21, effective 7/1/21)

WAC 357-31-330 For what reasons may an employer grant leave without pay?

Leave without pay may be allowed for any of the following reasons in accordance with the employer's leave policy:

- (1) For any reason leave with pay may be granted, as long as the conditions for leave with pay are met;
- (2) Educational leave;
- (3) Leave for government service in the public interest;
- (4) Military leave of absence as required by WAC 357-31-370;
- (5) Parental leave as required by WAC 357-31-460;
- (6) Family care emergencies as required by WAC 357-31-295;
- (7) Bereavement or condolence;
- (8) Absence due to inclement weather as provided in WAC 357-31-255;
- (9) To accommodate annual work schedules of employees occupying cyclic year positions as specified in WAC 357-19-295;
- (10) Serious health condition of an eligible employee's child, spouse, registered domestic partner, or parent as required by WAC 357-31-525;
- (11) Leave taken voluntarily to reduce the effect of an employer's layoff;
- (12) Leave that is authorized in advance by the appointing authority as part of a plan to reasonably accommodate a person of disability;
- (13) Employees receiving time loss compensation; or
- (14) For an employee to protect themselves, or a relative or household member, from risks related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In determining whether to grant leave, an employer may consider ~~((whether the employee is needed to provide essential services because the employee is a health care provider, an emergency responder or otherwise necessary to maintain public safety. This subsection is effective until the expiration of proclamation 20-05, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, whichever is later.))~~current workload demands and business needs that require employees to perform their duties.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-01-022, filed 12/3/21, effective 7/1/22)

WAC 357-31-490 Will time off for parental leave be paid or unpaid?

- (1) Parental leave may be a combination of vacation leave, personal holiday, compensatory time, holiday credit, shared leave and leave of absence without pay. Sick leave may be used if the criteria in WAC 357-31-130 and 357-31-133 are met. The combination and use of paid and unpaid leave during a parental leave is at the employee's choice.
- (2) If necessary while on approved parental leave, the employee must be allowed to use a minimum of eight hours per month of the accrued paid leave identified in subsection (1) of this section during a parental leave of absence

without pay to provide for continuation of benefits as provided by the public employees' benefits board. The employer designates when during the month paid leave will be interspersed to maintain benefits.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-06-008, filed 2/20/20, effective 5/1/20)

WAC 357-31-567 When must an employer grant the use of recognition leave?

(1) An employee's request to use recognition leave must be approved under the following conditions:

(a) An employee must be granted the use of recognition leave if the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking as defined in RCW [49.76.020](#). An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730;

(b) In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, an employee must be granted the use of recognition leave to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, National Guard, or Reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment; ~~((and))~~

(c) When requested as a supplemental benefit while receiving a partial wage replacement for paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW as provided in WAC 357-31-248. Leave taken under this subsection may be subject to verification that the employee has been approved to receive benefits for approved paid family and/or medical leave under Title [50A](#) RCW; ~~and~~

~~(d) When a high risk employee, as defined in RCW [49.17.062](#), seeks a reasonable accommodation to protect themselves from the risk of exposure to an infectious or contagious disease and the employer determines no other accommodation is reasonable besides the use of leave.~~

(2) In accordance with the employer's leave policy, approval for the reasons listed in (1)(a) and (b) above may be subject to verification that the condition or circumstance exists.

~~((3) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium only, an employee whose monthly full-time equivalent base salary is two thousand five hundred dollars or less is eligible to use recognition leave in lieu of temporary layoff as described in chapter 32, Laws of 2010.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-03-081, filed 1/15/18, effective 2/16/18)

WAC 357-31-845 What definitions apply to the foster parent shared leave pool?

The following definitions apply to the foster parent shared leave pool:

"Caring for" means taking a foster child to health care appointments, court appointments, visitation with family members and/or any other reasons that sick leave may be used for in WAC 357-31-130 ~~and 357-31-133~~.

"Employee" means any employee of the state, including employees of school districts and educational service districts, who are entitled to accrue sick leave or vacation leave and for whom accurate leave records are maintained as defined in RCW [41.04.655](#).

"Monthly salary" means the monthly salary and special pay and shift differential, or the monthly equivalent for hourly employees. Monthly salary does not include overtime pay, callback pay, standby pay or performance bonuses.

"Preparing for" means arranging a foster child's living space, enrolling in school, and/or enrolling in child care.