

## ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL CREDIT (COVID-19)

### Claiming benefits

Whether you are currently in or out of work, if you are on a low income and affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19, you will be able to access the full range of the welfare system, including Universal Credit.

From 6 April the government is increasing the standard allowance in Universal Credit and the basic element in Working Tax Credit for 1 year. Both will increase by £20 per week on top of planned annual uprating. This will apply to all new and existing Universal Credit claimants and to existing Working Tax Credit claimants.

### If you have COVID-19 or are staying at home

You are now able to [claim Universal Credit](#), and if required can access advance payments upfront without needing to attend a Job Centre.

### Support for rent costs

You should [check your eligibility for Universal Credit](#), which is available for people in and out of work. Support for rental costs will be paid through Universal Credit.

From April, the government is increasing Local Housing Allowance rates to the 30th percentile of market rents. This applies to all private renters who are new or existing Universal Credit housing element claimants and to existing Housing Benefit claimants.

Government updates on Coronavirus and Universal Credit will be available on this page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees>