

Vermont Paid Sick Leave Regulations

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is eligible for Vermont Paid Sick Leave?

A. All full-time and part-time (including casual part-time and seasonal) employees who perform work in the city of Vermont are eligible for the paid sick leave benefit.

Q. How much paid time does an employee receive under the Vermont Paid Sick Leave Plan?

A.

- **Part-Time Employees** will notice 24 hours front loaded into their paychecks. Employees will not be able to use the paid sick leave for 1 year.
- **Full-Time Employees** will follow the standard PTO plan for full-time employees.
- **Salaried Employees** will notice 24 hours front loaded into their paychecks. Employees will not be able to use the paid sick leave for 1 year. These hours are not in addition to their regular PTO. Employees can continue to use their regular PTO during the 1 year wait period.

Q. Why PTO instead of Paid Sick Leave for Full-Time Employees?

A. The law allows companies to meet the paid sick leave requirements with a PTO plan as long as it is at least as generous as what the law requires.

Q. When do PTO/Paid Sick Leave accrual changes begin?

A.

Employee Status	Accrual Date Begins
Part-Time	1/1/17 or Date of Hire, whichever is later.
Full-Time year	Date of Hire (No Change)
Salaried	1/1/17 or Date of Hire, whichever is later. 24 hour grant will renew every 12 months.

Q. When can I use PTO/Paid Sick Leave?

A. Employees may use their accrued PTO/Paid Sick Leave for any absences related to themselves or family members for:

- Illness and injury
- Professional diagnostic, preventive, routine, or therapeutic health care
- Arranging for social or legal services, obtaining medical care or counseling, or relocating after domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Q. Can I use accrued PTO/Paid Sick Leave Immediately?

A. Full-time employees may use PTO for the reasons listed above, and any other reason, as soon as it is accrued. Part-time employees may use sick leave after 1 year starting January 2017.

Q. How do I check accrued PTO/Paid Sick Leave balances?

A. Updated PTO/Paid Sick Leave will appear on employee paychecks. Part-time and salaried employees will see time under “Sick Balance” on their paystub and full-time employees will continue to see PTO.

Note: Part-time employees within the waiting period will see their paid sick leave balance immediately on paychecks with “pp” listed next to it during their waiting period. During this time Part-time employees are unable to use the paid sick leave. For additional questions please contact HR Central at 1-866-431-8484.

Q. How will we input and track an employee’s use of paid sick leave?

A. Managers will enter as “Sick” in CIAO!, eyeNET and Sundial POS locations or “PTO – Sick” in Tempo/Kronos locations for part-time, full-time and salaried employees. For salaried employees who do not appear in a POS or Tempo/Kronos timekeeping system, please call HR Central at 1-866-431-8484 to request use of paid sick leave.

Hours used will be deducted from the PTO or Sick Balance shown on the employee’s paycheck.

Beyond the negative PTO balance allowed under the Full-Time PTO plan (does not apply to part-time associates), an employee will not be paid for any hours taken in excess of his or her accrued balance.

Q. Will we require employees to give us notice of their need for paid sick leave?

A. Yes. When the need to take sick leave is foreseeable, such as a scheduled appointment, the employee shall provide advance notice and should make a reasonable effort to schedule the sick leave in a manner that does not unduly disrupt business operations. Where unforeseeable, employees will be required to notify us as soon as practicable and follow the normal call-in procedures, unless a legitimate reason prevents them from doing so.

Q. Will an employee be asked to provide a doctor’s note verifying the need for paid sick leave?

A. Managers may ask for doctors’ notes or other types of verification in accordance with their brand’s attendance policy. However an employer cannot require that the documentation specify the nature of the employee’s or family member’s injury, illness, or medical condition. If management feels an employee is abusing the Paid Sick Leave benefit, they can contact Employee Relations via the **Employee Relations** icon on [HR Central](#). Possible signs of abuse may include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated use of unscheduled sick leave on or adjacent to weekends, regularly scheduled days off, holidays, vacation, or pay day.
- Taking leave on days when other leave has been denied.
- Evidence that an employee engaged in an activity that is not consistent with the employee being sick or using sick leave for a preventative medical appointment.

Q. Can an employee be required to find coverage for their absence?

A. No. An employee is not required to find a replacement to cover their shift, but is encouraged to seek out and participate in voluntary shift trades.

Q. Can paid sick leave count as an absence under the attendance policy?

A. No. It is unlawful for employers to count paid sick leave as an absence that may result in discipline, discharge, demotion, suspension, or any other adverse action. However, any related absences extending beyond an employee's accrued PTO/Paid Sick Leave balance will count as an unexcused absence, provided the absence is not covered by a Company-approved leave of absence or other applicable law.

Retaliation against any employee that asserts his or her rights to receive paid sick leave is strictly prohibited.

Q. Is using paid sick leave the same as taking intermittent leave under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)?

A. No. Paid sick leave differs from intermittent FMLA leave in many ways. Most importantly, employees do not have to contact EssilorLuxottica Leave and Disability or submit medical certification paperwork before using paid sick leave. As long as employees have accrued enough hours of PTO/Paid Sick Leave to cover their absences and provided sufficient notice for their individual circumstance, they may use their PTO/Paid Sick Leave without further Company approval.

Note: Employees should still contact EssilorLuxottica Leave and Disability at 1-866-431-8484 to initiate a leave of absence if their absence is due to their own or a family member's serious health condition. Please refer employees to the EssilorLuxottica Employee Guide for additional information on FMLA and Company Medical Leave requirements. In such cases, employees may choose to use their accrued, unused PTO/Paid Sick Leave while taking a leave of absence. Managers should enter the time in the POS, which will run concurrently with their designated leave of absence.

Q. What if an employee's employment status changes in a calendar year?

A.

- **Part-Time to Full-Time:** If an employee's status changes from part-time to full-time, their status change date will be the date used to determine when full-time rules begin to apply. Employees will not lose the paid sick leave they have accrued and will need to e-mail Kronos@luxotticaretail.com to request that their remaining accrued Sick Balance be transferred to PTO hours.
- **Full-Time to Part-Time:** If an employee's status changes from full-time to part-time, any accrued, unused PTO hours beyond 40-hour paid sick leave requirement will be paid out at the time of their status change. They will then be eligible to begin accruing paid sick leave under the part-time Paid Sick Leave plan.

Q. Are we required to pay out an employee's accrued, unused paid sick leave when the employee terminates?

A. Part-time employees will not be paid out their remaining sick leave balance on termination. Full-time employees will be paid out their remaining PTO balance per current PTO policy.

Q. If I leave the company and am re-hired, will I need to re-accrue paid sick leave?

A. No, previously accrued, unused paid sick leave will not be reinstated for part-time employees if they are rehired. Full-time employees, however, will begin accruing all over again, as remaining PTO balances are paid out at the time of termination.