

### During the Coronavirus Outbreak?

Last Updated: 18 March 2020

#### What is Maximise!

Maximise! is a partnership between CHAI and Children 1st supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and the NHS. Together, we want to ensure that school pupils can achieve their educational potential.

We provide an all round service to pupils' families to help improve relationships, increase confidence, support wellbeing and increase community links as well as providing advice to maximise your income, reduce debt, resolve housing issues and gain employment.

To make an appointment, please contact your child's school or phone CHAI on 0131 442 2100.

**If in doubt: Get Advice!**

#### Have you been made redundant or laid off?

- You may be entitled to the new benefit **Universal Credit**. This will cover your living costs and your rent.
  - **How much you will get** depends on your circumstances, i.e. whether you have children, your partner's income, or any other income and savings you have.
  - **Make a claim online** at: [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit) or **phone** 0800 328 5644.
  - You normally need to **attend an appointment at the JobCentre** to provide proof of ID and proof of rent and any income or savings.
  - Claiming as a jobseeker usually means **looking for work and signing on**, but follow the advice provided by the DWP/your work coach as Government advice about **social distancing** may change in the future.
- EXCEPTIONS!**
- **If you have worked without too many gaps for the last 2 to 3 years**, you are likely to have enough NI contributions to qualify for **contribution-based (new style) Jobseeker's Allowance JSA**. You can make a claim for contributory (new style) JSA by phone: 0800 055 6688. You may also qualify for a top-up of Universal Credit, for example for your rent (unless you already claim housing benefit).

#### Are you self-isolating or ill due to COVID-19 (or caring for someone who is)?

##### CASE 1: If you are employed

- Claim **Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)** from your employer. You will be paid from Day 1. Your employer may also provide additional contractual sick pay.
- **Phone NHS 111** for a fit note (instead of your GP) to give to your employer.
- Once SSP comes to an end **after 28 weeks** (not before), see Case 2 →



##### CASE 2: If you have been laid off

- **If you have enough NI contributions**, you may be able to claim **contributory (new style) ESA Employment Support Allowance**. You can make a claim by phoning 0800 055 6688.
  - **If you don't have enough NI contributions or if you also have rent costs**, claim Universal Credit. Apply online [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit) or phone 0800 328 5644.
- You **won't** have to attend any **appointments** at the JobCentre to start your claim, and won't have to attend any **medicals** to prove you are unfit for work if you are affected by the coronavirus.

## Are you waiting for a medical for ESA/PIP?

All face-to-face assessments for sickness and disability benefits have been **suspended** for 3 months with effect from 17 March 2020.

You will be notified by the DWP about any alternative arrangements which may involve either telephone or paper-based assessments.

**If you claimed ESA because you are affected by the coronavirus because you have symptoms or are self-isolating** (or need to care for someone who is), you won't have to attend any medical to prove you are unfit for work.

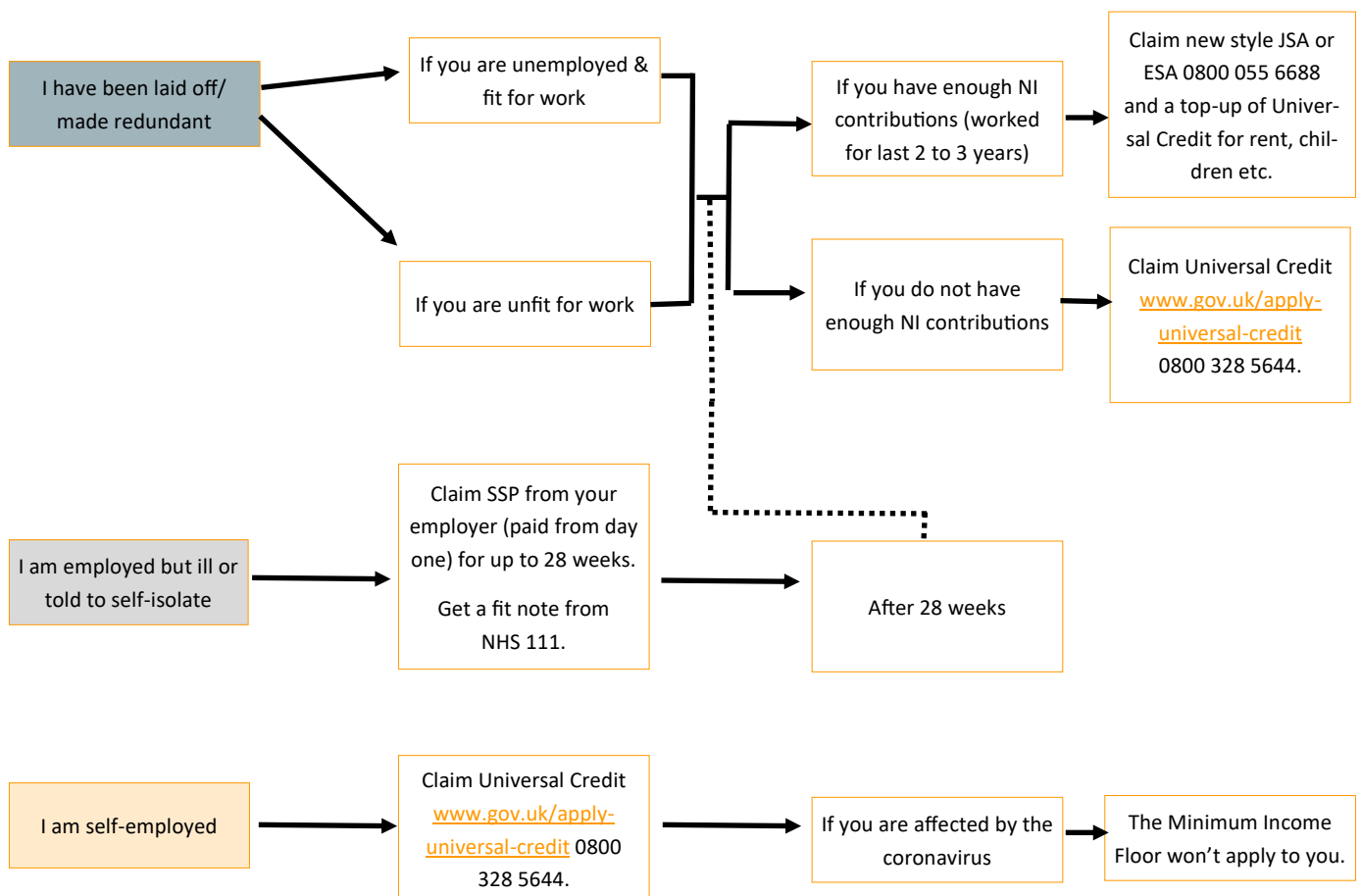
You can get a fit note from NHS 111.

## Are you self-employed?

- Claim Universal Credit. **Make a claim online** at: [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit) or **phone** 0800 328 5644.
- If you claim Universal Credit and you are directly affected by coronavirus or self-isolating, the **Minimum**

**Income Floor** won't apply to you for the duration of the outbreak. This means your **actual** self-employment earnings will be taken into account each month—not estimated earnings based on how much you're supposed to work each month.

## In summary



**If in doubt: Get Advice!**