



Campaign 2010: Paid Sick Days for Vermont

Paid Sick Days are Good for Everyone's Health

When employees can earn paid sick time, they are able to make decisions to care for their own health and their families' health. Paid sick days are good for public health and increase access to preventive healthcare.

Key Facts:

- **Paid sick days allow workers to take the time to receive preventive and diagnostic care** – possibly heading off hospitalizations or improving chronic conditions while reducing health care costs and averting costly emergency interventions.
- **Research by the General Accounting Office found that 24-53% of domestic violence victims lose their jobs.** Paid sick and safe days to address domestic violence reduces turnover and helps workers safely seek care and protection.
- **If employees show up to work sick, they risk infecting their coworkers and customers.** A basic workplace standard for paid sick days would help stop the spread of infectious diseases.
- Sick workers who handle food or frequently have contact with customers or clients can spread diseases to many people in a short period of time. Unfortunately, **more than three in four food service and hotel employees do not have any paid sick time.**¹
- Workers in child care centers, retail and nursing homes also overwhelmingly lack paid sick days.²
- Employees without paid sick days are nearly three times more likely to lack a usual source for routine and preventive healthcare.³
- With paid sick days, parents are able to take their children to well-child visits and for immunizations, which may prevent serious illnesses.⁴

“Stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick.”

- Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

When a worker at a Chipotle restaurant in Kent, Ohio had no choice but to come to work sick with a virus, over 500 people become violently ill. The outbreak cost the Kent community between \$130,233 and \$305,337 in lost economic opportunity.⁵

Join Campaign 2010: Paid Sick Days

for Vermont and help us to ensure all working Vermonters are guaranteed paid sick days.

Call or email:

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Vermont Paid Sick Days Coalition

Vermont Livable Wage Campaign -
Peace and Justice Center • Kids Are
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Labor Unions; United Professions
of Vermont/AFT; VT AFL-CIO •
Vermont Network Against Domes-
tic and Sexual Violence • Green
Mountain Chapter - Older Women's
League • Vermont Workers' Center
• Voices for Vermont's Children

1 Testimony of Heidi Hartmann, Institute for Women's Policy Research, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 2007.

2 Ibid.

3 Unpublished Institute for Women's Policy Research Analysis of the National Health Interview Survey.

4 Vicky Lovell, No time to be Sick, 2004.

5 Policy Matters Ohio. "Outbreak in Ohio: Cost of the 2008 Norovirus Incident in Kent."