COVID-19 UPDATE: FRANCE: 25.03.2020



Overview	Legal Change	Action required
Partial Unemployment Measures ("l'activité partielle")	Employees who cannot work in other ways, stop work temporarily.	Applications can be made via the government portal:
An alternative where other working alternatives are not available (home or teleworking or paid leave).	This is not part-time working or a reduction of hours. Rather it is full work stoppage.	https://activitepartielle.emploi.go uv.fr/aparts
	The employer pays 70% of gross salary which it can then claim back from the Government.	The application review is now supposed to take 48 hours. Formally it took 15 days.
When available?	This measure is available in the event of, amongst other things, a drop in activity due to an epidemic.	Applications can be made now.
Collective Bargaining Agreements.	Employers must check their CBAs. These may provide for higher percentage salary payments in these circumstances, sometimes on a sliding scale. However, companies currently can only to claim back 70% of actual gross salary from the government.	Check your CBA.
Employer choice?	The unions are lobbying at company level for employers to apply these measures. However, employers do not have to agree.	Employers are responsible for the health and safety of their employees.
	Homeworking should be put in place where possible. Where not possible it is still currently allowed to keep work premises open provided all government health and safety guidelines are clearly followed. There is an option to introduce shift work up to 50% at any one time.	If employers decide to keep work premises open they must be able to demonstrate that they have followed all government guidelines.
Absence from work caused by an external factor ("Absence par ricochet").	Where an absence from work is caused by an external factor, such as a school closure when the child is under 16, and it is not possible for a parent to work from home, government health insurance is available.	Employers make a declaration on https://declare.ameli.fr/declaration Conditions will apply.

This is a high level general update only. Legal advice should be obtained on specific circumstances.