New Jersey law provides up to 6 weeks of family leave insurance benefits. Beginning July 1, 2020, the law will allow up to 12 weeks of continuous family leave or 56 days of intermittent leave. Employees who are covered by family leave insurance can apply for benefits to:

- bond with a child within 12 months of the child’s birth or placement by adoption or foster care. The applicant, or the applicant’s spouse or domestic or civil union partner, must be the child’s biological, adoptive or foster parent, unless a surrogate carried the child.
- care for a family member with a serious health condition. Supporting documentation from a health care provider is mandatory.
- care for a victim of domestic violence or a sexually violent offense or for a victim’s family member.

“Family member” means a child, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, civil union partner, and any other person related by blood to the employee or with whom the employee has a close association that is the equivalent of a family relationship.

“Child” means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild or legal ward of a parent. A child gained by way of a valid written contract between the parent and a surrogate (gestational carrier) is included in this definition.

State Family Leave Insurance Plan (“state plan”)
You can get program information and an application for family leave benefits (form FL-1) online at myleavebenefits.nj.gov, by phone at 609-292-7060, or by mail: Division of Family Leave Insurance, P.O. Box 387, Trenton, NJ 08625-0387.

New mothers who receive temporary disability benefits through the state plan for their pregnancy will get instructions on how to file for family leave benefits after the child is born.

Private Family Leave Insurance Plan (“private plan”)
An employer may provide family leave insurance through a private insurance carrier, if this Division approves the plan. If your employer has an approved private plan, your employer must provide information about coverage and provide the forms to apply for benefits.

Who pays for Family Leave Insurance?
Payroll contributions from employees finance this program. Family leave insurance coverage under the state plan will require contributions to be deducted from employee wages. The deductions must be noted on the employee’s pay envelope, paycheck, or on some other form of notice. In 2018, the taxable wage base for family leave insurance benefits is the same as the taxable wage base for unemployment and temporary disability insurance.