

United States Lags World in Paid Sick Days for Workers and Families

Flu outbreak underscores need to adopt more effective paid sick day and sick leave policies

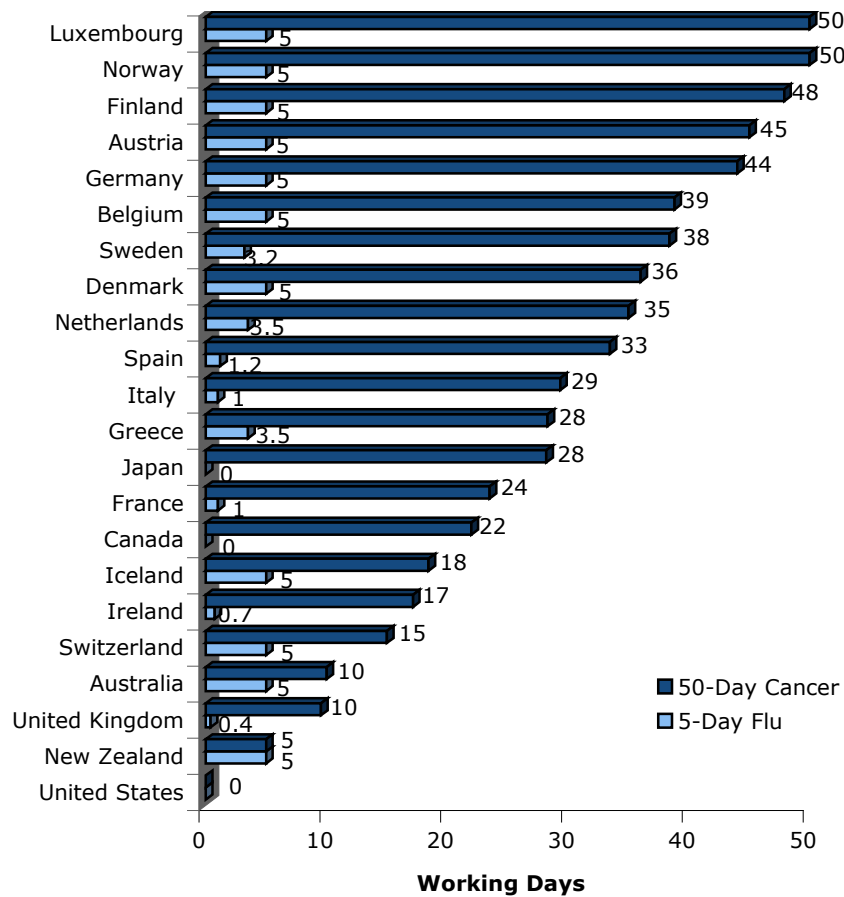
The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) finds that the United States is the only 1 of 22 rich countries that fails to guarantee workers some form of paid sick leave in the report, [Contagion Nation: A Comparison of Paid Sick Day Policies in 22 Countries](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/contagion-nation:-a-comparison-of-paid-sick-day-policies-in-22-countries) <www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/contagion-nation:-a-comparison-of-paid-sick-day-policies-in-22-countries>.

The report finds that the United States is:

- the **only** country that does not provide paid sick leave for a worker undergoing a 50-day cancer treatment
- **1 of only 3** countries that does not provide paid sick days for a worker missing 5 days of work due to the flu

"Working Americans can't afford to stay home when they're sick because they don't have paid sick days," said Dr. Jody Heymann, Director of the Institute for Health and Social Policy and Professor of Epidemiology at McGill University and lead author of the report. "The economic costs of a serious flu outbreak are potentially enormous. We can't afford to wait any longer before providing American workers with paid sick days."

Paid Sick Days and Leave in 22 Countries, Worker at Median Earnings
(Full-time equivalent working days)



To compare the various national policies, the report calculates employer- or government- provided financial support available to workers facing a bout of flu requiring that they miss 5 days of work or a cancer treatment requiring that they miss 50 days of work. Under current U.S. labor law, employers are not required to provide short-term paid sick days or longer-term paid sick leave.