

French health workers get \$9 billion pay rise

16th July, 2020



The French government has agreed to give a pay rise of \$9 billion to its health workers. It agreed the deal on Monday with labour unions. The extra cash means that nurses and care workers will get an extra \$208 a month

in their pay packet. Doctors who work in the public sector will also get more money. France's Prime Minister said the pay rise was to recognise the efforts of health workers during the coronavirus pandemic. During the outbreak, millions of French people applauded and clapped their nurses and doctors. This caused the government to reward them with a rise in pay. The Prime Minister told reporters that: "No one can deny that this is a historic moment for our health system."

Monday's announcement and signing ceremony was on the day before Bastille Day on July the 14th. This is a day to honour a turning point in the French Revolution in 1789. It is the national day of France. Around 1,400 nurses, doctors and carers attended a ceremony in Paris' Place de la Concorde. However, some unions asked health workers to stay away from the celebration as a protest. The unions said the government needed to do more to protect staff and keep them safer during the pandemic. The Prime Minister said the government would do more. He said: "It is a way of catching up for years of delay, for which each and every one of us has their share of responsibility."

Sources: france24.com / independent.co.uk / bbc.com

Writing

Nurses should be among the highest paid workers in any country. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / pay rise / union / nurse / pay packet / public sector / pandemic / reward / announcement / ceremony / revolution / doctors / celebration / protect / staff / delay

True / False

- a) A nurse in France will get a par rise of \$9 billion. T / F
- b) The government gave the pay rise without talking to unions. T / F
- c) The pay rise is only for nurses and not for doctors. T / F
- d) France's Prime Minister called the pay rise historic. T / F
- e) The pay rise was announced on France's national day. T / F
- f) About 1,400 health care workers attended a ceremony in Paris. T / F
- g) Unions said the government should do more to help health workers. T / F
- h) The Prime Minister said the pay rise was to catch up for years of delay. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. pay | a. went to |
| 2. extra | b. brought about |
| 3. recognise | c. festivities |
| 4. caused | d. additional |
| 5. historic | e. part |
| 6. announcement | f. significant |
| 7. attended | g. salary |
| 8. celebration | h. keep safe |
| 9. protect | i. statement |
| 10. share | j. appreciate |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Should nurses be among the highest paid workers?
- c) What do you know about the French Revolution?
- d) What do you think of labour unions?
- e) What more should governments do for health workers?
- f) Have you ever needed the help of health workers?
- g) Are doctors or nurses more important?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a health worker?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. labour | a. of delay |
| 2. work in the public | b. with a rise in pay |
| 3. French people applauded and | c. during the pandemic |
| 4. reward them | d. French Revolution |
| 5. this is a historic | e. clapped their nurses |
| 6. a turning point in the | f. every one of us |
| 7. carers attended a | g. unions |
| 8. keep them safer | h. moment |
| 9. catching up for years | i. ceremony in Paris |
| 10. each and | j. sector |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the pay rise?
- How much should nurses get paid?
- Would you like to be a nurse?
- How difficult is the job of a nurse?
- How difficult is the job of a doctor?
- How often should we applaud our health workers?
- What would being a health worker be like in a pandemic?
- What advice do you have for health workers?

Spelling

- The French government has graeed
- \$208 a month in their pay ktcepa
- during the coronavirus mcdnpeai
- people uppaalded and clapped their nurses
- rdarew them with a rise in pay
- a hioicrts moment for our health system
- signing yeoemrnc
- It is the natoilan day of France
- to stay away from the abtnocrliee
- needed to do more to tirecto staff
- catching up for years of lydae
- their share of birisetosinpyl

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. i	7. a	8. c	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Nurses

You think nurses are the most deserving of a pay rise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people in their jobs don't really need a pay rise. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): bankers, coders or shop assistants.

Role B – Bankers

You think bankers are the most deserving of a pay rise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people in their jobs don't really need a pay rise. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): nurses, coders or shop assistants.

Role C – Coders

You think coders are the most deserving of a pay rise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people in their jobs don't really need a pay rise. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): bankers, nurses or shop assistants.

Role D – Shop Assistants

You think shop assistants are the most deserving of a pay rise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people in their jobs don't really need a pay rise. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): bankers, coders or nurses.

Speaking – Pay Rise

Rank these with your partner. Put those who most deserve a pay rise at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| • Nurses | • Coder |
| • Soldiers | • Shop assistant |
| • Bankers | • Prime Minister |
| • Teachers | • Artist |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.