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## The COVID19 Unemployment Update

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President Trump declared COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) a National Emergency on March 13, 2020. The declaration provides new guidance and outlines flexibilities that states will have in administering their unemployment insurance programs. The following are the Arizona Department of Economic Security's latest unemployment updates.

On March 20, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey issued an executive order and administrative action aimed at providing certainty and economic relief for those facing financial hardship because of COVID-19, increasing access to unemployment benefits. These resources are applied retroactively to hardships experienced after March 11, 2020. Applications will be accepted beginning March 23, 2020. This includes:

- The state will waive the 1-week waiting period for Unemployment claims to expedite payment of benefits
- The state will also, modify the availability requirement
- Employer unemployment accounts will not be charged for benefits collected due to the COVID-19.

**DES encourages the following individuals impacted by COVID-19 to apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits:**

- Individuals whose employer has permanently or temporarily ceased or drastically reduced operations due to COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of wages;
- Individuals who, due to requirements that the individual be quarantined, are separated from employment and do not have any available paid leave even if the individual has an expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over;
- Individuals who leave employment due to a risk of exposure or infection and are a member of a population that is particularly susceptible to COVID-19;
- Individuals who leave employment to care for a family member who has been infected with COVID-19; or
- Individuals who for any other scenario are separated from work for reasons related to COVID-19.

To read the Executive Order go here: <https://azgovernor.gov/executive-orders>

Arizona's FAQs can be found: [https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/media/Unemployment\\_Insurance\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_032320.pdf](https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/media/Unemployment_Insurance_Fact_Sheet_032320.pdf)

**Information contained in the bulletin was gathered both independently, as well as utilizing resources obtained from NASWA and the Department of Labor. CCC is in contact with both national and state representatives regarding this issue and will keep you updated as more information becomes available.**