
The COVID19 Unemployment Update

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. This bulletin is intended to answer frequently asked questions and provide links to resources related to the effect of COVID-19 on employer unemployment programs.

As of March 16, 2020, California issued a New Executive Order in response to the recent outbreak of COVID-19. As it pertains to Unemployment and Workforce Solutions, please see highlights below:

- The one-week waiting period for those unemployed and/or disabled as a result of COVID-19 is waived
- If a claimant is unable to work due to medical quarantine or illness, they may initially qualify for Disability Insurance. Those who have lost their job or have had their hours reduced for reasons related to COVID-19 may be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Information Directly Pertaining to Employers:

The EDD has released limited information in how legislation applies to workers effected by COVID-19. Please see the highlights which apply to employer below:

- **Reduced Work Hours and WorkSharing**

Employers experiencing a slowdown in their businesses or services as a result of the coronavirus impact on the economy may apply for the UI Work Sharing Program. This program allows employers to seek an alternative to layoffs — retaining their trained employees by reducing their hours and wages that can be partially offset with UI benefits. Workers of employers who are approved to participate in the Work Sharing Program receive the percentage of their weekly UI benefit amount based on the percentage of hours and wages reduced, not to exceed 60 percent. To learn more about the EDD Work Sharing Program, go here:

- https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Work_Sharing_Program.htm

- **Potential Closure or Layoffs**

Employers planning a closure or major layoffs as a result of the coronavirus can get help through the Rapid Response program. Rapid Response teams will meet with you to discuss your needs, help avert potential layoffs, and provide immediate on-site services to assist workers facing job losses.

- **Tax Assistance**

Employers experiencing a hardship as a result of COVID-19 may request up to a 60-day extension of time from the EDD to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. A written request for extension must be received within 60 days from the original delinquent date of the payment or return.

For more information on the EDD and COVID-19, go here:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm

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.