
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. The following are the Connecticut Department of Labor's latest unemployment updates.

Connecticut issued information regarding the recent effects of a COVID-19. According to the department's website: **"Connecticut Department of Labor Suspends In-Person Visits at American Job Centers, Wethersfield Offices."**

- Workers directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic no longer must be actively searching for work to qualify for unemployment assistance.
- Employers are encouraged to using an alternative to laying off employees. SharedWork is recommended for businesses impacted by COVID-19. See more information on SharedWork here: http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/progsupt/bussrvce/shared_work/index.htm . Employers who are furloughing workers can use the Department of Labor's shared work program, which allows businesses to reduce working hours and have those wages supplemented with unemployment insurance
- Employers who must "close the doors" of business, must handle the shut down in the same way they would a layoff.

Connecticut FAQs can be found here: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/DOLCOVIDFAQ.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.