
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 District of Columbia Department of Employment Service's latest unemployment updates.

Mayor Muriel Bowser of District of Columbia issued an Executive Order to address the critical needs in response to the effects of COVID-19. The following is a summary of the Executive Order.

- **The district will waive work search requirements and modify the availability requirement.**
- **Employers will not be charged for benefits paid as a result of COVID-19. The Mayor will determine the source of funds for these payments.**

Claimants will be eligible for unemployment regardless of whether:

- The employer has provided a date certain for the employee's return to work, or
- The employee has a reasonable expectation of continued employment with the current employer.

Affected Employees are considered:

- An employee who has been quarantined or isolated by the Department of Health or any other applicable District or federal agency
- An employee who has self-quarantined or self-isolated in a manner consistent with the recommendations or guidance of the Department of Health or any other applicable District or federal agency or medical professional
- An employee of an employer that ceased or reduced operations due to an order or guidance from the Mayor or the Department of Health or a reduction in business revenue resulting from the circumstances giving rise to the public health emergency, as determined by the Mayor, all as demonstrated by reasonable documentation required by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee.

Claimants are considered to have Voluntary Quit with Good Cause if:

- An employer's failure to timely comply with a written directive from the Mayor or the Department of Health in relation to public safety measures necessary to protect its employees or the public during the public health emergency
- An employer's requirements that an employee be physically present in the workplace despite the employee having: (1) Been quarantined or isolated by the Department of Health or any other applicable District or federal agency; or (2) Self-quarantined or self-isolated in a manner consistent with the recommendations or guidance of the Department of Health, any other applicable District or federal agency, or a medical professional.

Claimants MAY be eligible (dependent if they meet monetary eligibility) if:

- If an individual who has been quarantined or isolated by a medical professional (even if they have worked with the employer less than a year or 1000 hours)
- If an individual has self-quarantined or self-isolated in a manner consistent with Department of Health Guidelines
- If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available
- If an employer temporarily lays off employees due to any loss or lack of work due to COVID-19

To see more. go here: <http://lims.dccouncil.us/Download/44469/B23-0718-SignedAct.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