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

Governor Brad Little signed an executive order and proclamation on March 27, 2020 following the passage of the national CARES Act providing additional funding for employers and claimants affected by COVID-19.

Effective March 8, 2020 for all unemployment insurance claimants, the proclamation does the following things:

- Waives the one-week waiting period for all applicants who are otherwise eligible.
- Makes it easier for claimants to be considered as job-attached if they have been laid off due to COVID-19 related reasons. An employer must provide reasonable assurance of a return to work and the claimant must be able and available for suitable work.
- Considers claimants have met the available-for-work criteria if they are isolated and unavailable to work at the request of a medical professional, their employer, or their local health district and they will be returning to their employer.
- Provides parties an additional 14 days to appeal claims decisions beyond the normal 14 days.

For employers:

- Businesses who pay a quarterly unemployment tax will not be charged when employees are laid off due to coronavirus.
- Parties will be given an additional 14 days to appeal claims decisions beyond the normal 14 days.

Employer FAQs can be found here: <https://idahoatwork.com/2020/03/18/employer-faqs-about-unemployment-insurance-and-covid-19/>

Claimant FAQs can be found here: <https://idahoatwork.com/2020/03/18/faqs-about-unemployment-insurance-and-covid-19/>

**CCC is in contact with both national and state representatives regarding this issue and will keep you updated as more information becomes available.**