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## 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 Kansas Department of Labor's latest unemployment updates.

Kansas has released information regarding their response to the effects of COVID-19.

- The state will waive the 1-week waiting period for Unemployment claims to expedite payment of benefits
- The state will also, waive work search requirements and modify the availability requirement

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

- If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available
- If an employer must lay off employees due to the loss of production caused by the Coronavirus
- If an employer temporarily lays off employees due to any loss or lack of work due to COVID-19
- If an employer shuts down the business operations because an employee is sick with the COVID-19
- If an employer reduces the hours of work because business has slowed down, Kansas allows for partial unemployment benefits.
- If an employee is in mandatory quarantine because of suspicion of having the Coronavirus and is able and available for work
- Educational Institution employees, which schools close, pay is not continuing, and it is not a regularly scheduled break between terms

*It is noted that if a Claimant refuses a suitable employment offer due to illness, they are not eligible for benefits.*

### What is Required of Employers?

- All employers must notify their employees of the availability of UI benefits at the time of separation from employment. While not required, employers may also consider filing claims by spreadsheet. For more information visit: <https://www.kansasemployer.gov/uitax/Tax/LayoffSelect.asp>

For more information on Kansas's response to COVID-19, go here:

[https://www.dol.ks.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/ui-covid19-faqs.pdf?sfvrsn=3b4c881f\\_12](https://www.dol.ks.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/ui-covid19-faqs.pdf?sfvrsn=3b4c881f_12)

**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.**