

## The COVID19 Unemployment Update

President Trump signed the CARES Act on March 27, 2020. In compliance with the legislation, Kentucky has made significant updates to their UI program. The following are the Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance's latest unemployment updates.

Effective March 27, 2020, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear expanded the eligibility for UI insurance to include Individuals not typically covered by state unemployment insurance. This includes:

- Self-employed
- Independent contractors
- Freelance workers
- Substitute teachers
- Childcare workers employed by religious affiliated organizations and non-profits.

Governor Beshear has also expanded the reasons someone may be eligible for unemployment benefits due to include:

- Reasonable risk of exposure (self-quarantine)
- Caring for family member affected by COVID-19

Prior to March 27, 2020 Kentucky implemented the following unemployment updates for workers and claimants impacted related to COVID-19.

- At this point, Kentucky has waived the 1-week waiting period to expedite benefits to Workers. As a result, the following policy has been activated.
  - Individual is laid off and files initial claim application to request UI benefits.
  - After claimant files and requests payment, UI staff conducts eligibility review and processes benefit request concurrently.
  - If approved, initial payment is authorized for 14 days of benefits.
  - Claimant may request benefits every two weeks. This process may continue for a maximum of 26 total weeks or until the claimant obtains employment or returns to work.
  - The weekly benefit amount is based on the worker's past wages
- All Worker work search requirements are also waived, if their claim is found to be due to COVID-19.

**Kentucky Career Centers (KCC) across the state have been closed to the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19 but KCC workers are still providing services by telephone and videoconference.**

OFFICE	PHONE NUMBER	OFFICE	PHONE NUMBER
Bowling Green area	270-746-7425	Louisville area	502-595-4003
Elizabethtown area	270-766-5115	Morehead area	606-783-8525
Covington area	859-292-6666	Owensboro area	270-686-2502
Hazard area	888-503-1423	Paducah area	270-575-7000
Hopkinsville area	270-889-6509	Prestonsburg area	888-503-1423
Lexington area	859-233-5940	Somerset area	606-677-4124

People can file for unemployment insurance online at <https://kcc.ky.gov/career> or by calling 502-875-0442.

**Due to a surge in unemployment claims filings, people should file claims based on the first letter of their last name:**

Sunday, A-D

Monday, E-H

Tuesday, I-L

Wednesday, M-P

Thursday, Q-U

**Friday, V-Z** *People who miss their slot should file on Friday.*

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