
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 Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance's latest unemployment updates.

Kentucky filed and implemented an executive order for workers and employers impacted by layoffs 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.

Bowling Green area: 270-746-7425

Elizabethtown area: 270-766-5115

Covington area: 859-292-6666

Hazard area: 888-503-1423

Hopkinsville area: 270-889-6509

Lexington area: 859-233-5940

Louisville area: 502-595-4003

Morehead area: 606-783-8525

Owensboro area: 270-686-2502

Paducah area: 270-575-7000

Prestonsburg area: 888-503-1423

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.*

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.