
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 Maine Department of Labor's latest unemployment updates.

Maine 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
- Any benefits paid attributed to COVID-19 will not affect the employer's experience rating record

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

- An employer permanently or temporarily ceases operation due to COVID-19
- An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work once the quarantine is over
- An employee is ill because of COVID-19 and unable to work
- An employee is considered high-risk of the COVID-19 infection and is asked to go home, despite having symptoms

For more information regarding Maine's response to COVID-19, go here: <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=2241237&an=1>

Employer Considerations

- Businesses considering a temporary reduction in employee hours due to COVID-19 are advised to consider WorkShare. For more information on WorkShare, go here: <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/workshare/>

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.