
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 Mississippi Department of Employment Security's latest unemployment updates.

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) will limit public access to WIN Job Center facilities beginning Monday, March 16, until further notice.

On March 21, 2020, the Governor signed Executive Order No. 1462 due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic to help employees and employers during this state of emergency. The changes associated with this include the following:

- Individuals receiving unemployment benefits will not be required to serve a waiting period week for initial claims filed from March 8, 2020, through June 27, 2020.
- Work search requirements that normally must be met to be considered eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits shall be suspended beginning March 21, 2020, until June 27, 2020.
- All collection activities including, but not limited to, interception of state tax refunds, payment agreements, enrollment of liens, tax garnishments, and claimant overpayment garnishments shall be suspended until June 27, 2020.

The (MDES) announced that Mississippi workers who are not able to work due to COVID-19 will be eligible to file for unemployment benefits. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor and Governor Tate Reeves, MDES is modifying existing unemployment compensation rules to allow workers to file a claim for unemployment benefits who are affected based upon these measures below:

- Those who are quarantined by a medical professional or a government agency,
- Those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period by their employers due to COVID-19 concerns,
- Those who are diagnosed with COVID-19,
- Or, those who are caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Employer FAQs here: <https://mdes.ms.gov/unemployment-claims/covid19/#EmployerFAQs>

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