
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 Job Service North Dakota's latest unemployment updates.

Governor Burgum signed an Executive Order on Friday, March 20th the order made the following updates affecting unemployment claims related to COVID-19.

- Benefits paid to an individual whose UI is related directly or indirectly to COVID-19 shall not be charged against the accounts of the employer
- The state has waived work search requirements and modified the availability requirement if the employee's case directly or indirectly correlates to COVID-19
- The state has waived the 1-week waiting period for Unemployment claims to expedite payment of benefits
- The state will only consider the employee's initial separation when determining eligibility for benefits
- The state has temporarily eliminated income reduction requirements for business owners.

Claimants MAY be eligible for benefits if:

- Employer shuts down or lays me off because of the COVID-19 situation
- Employee becomes ill with the COVID-19 virus and cannot work
- Employee is quarantined and cannot work
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North Dakota's frequently asked questions can be found here: <https://www.jobsnd.com/sites/www/files/documents/COVID19/uicovidfaq03222020.pdf>

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.