

---

---

## 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 Pennsylvania Department of Unemployment Compensation's latest unemployment updates.

**The Department has requested the employer take the following steps in replying to the Notice of Application, form UC-45:**

- Only return the form if the employer response differs from the claimant's statement.
- No discrepancy, **DO NOT RETURN** the form

Further the Department indicated that *"in addition to the UC-45, employers will also receive the Notice of Financial Determination, form UC-44F(3) and the Request for Relief From Charges, form UC-44FR. Please be aware that the volume of claims and the need to maintain social distancing will cause all these mailings to be delayed. We are aware that appeals to the UC-44F(3) may be necessary and requesting relief from charges will also be important. The department understands mail delays may make it difficult to respond timely. We plan to be liberal when applying the relief from charge deadlines. When filing appeals, please keep a record of when determinations are received and when and how the appeal is filed.*

*Also, please be aware some of the UC Board of Review's referee offices are proceeding to schedule unemployment compensation appeal hearings. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, all hearings are temporarily being scheduled as telephone hearings. Please be sure to check your mail for hearing notices. If you are scheduled for a hearing, please provide your telephone number to the referee office as requested on the hearing notice. If you will have any witnesses presenting testimony from a different telephone number, provide the telephone number of each witness."*

**Claimants can receive benefits if:**

- Employer temporarily closes or goes out of business because of COVID-19
- Employer reduces your hours because of COVID-19
- Employer requests the claimant not to work due to concerns the claimant may get or spread COVID-19
- The claimant has been told to quarantine or self-isolate, or lives/works in a county under government-recommended mitigation efforts

The easiest way for claimants to apply is online at

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/File%20an%20Initial%20Claim.aspx>.

**Important info:**

- The department is experiencing very large call volumes. The best form of communication is via email at [uchelp@pa.gov](mailto:uchelp@pa.gov), or via [UC LiveChat](#).
- The Waiting Week is suspended. Previously, claimants were not eligible for benefits during their first week of unemployment (the "waiting week.") This has been suspended; eligible claimants may receive benefits for the first week that they are unemployed.
- Work Search and Work Registration requirements are temporarily waived for all UC claimants. Claimants are not required to prove they have applied or searched for a new job to maintain their UC benefits. Claimants are also not required to register with [www.PACareerLink.gov](http://www.PACareerLink.gov).
- At this time, benefits are not being extended beyond 26 weeks.
- Businesses who are temporarily closed due to COVID-19 will be granted Relief From Charges, and your tax rate will not be increased because of COVID-19-related claims.
- PA FAQs for unemployment as it relates to COVID-19 can be found here:

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Employer-COVID19-FAQs.aspx>

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