
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 Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development's latest unemployment updates.

Per the website "The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) adheres to Tennessee law and U.S. Department of Labor guidance when determining eligibility for Tennessee unemployment insurance benefits.

In order to be eligible for unemployment benefits, a claimant must be able and available for work and have lost his/her job or be out of work through no fault of his/her own.

Each claim and situation is different and requires individual adjudication by the state to determine eligibility. Should an employer need to stop conducting business due to the COVID-19 virus, the employer may contact the TDLWD at 844-224-5818 to discuss the options available for affected employees. Impacted employees may call the same number with any individual claim questions."

Tennessee filed an executive order to allow workers access to unemployment benefits if their work status is effected by COVID-19, given all other eligibility requirements are met.

Instructions for Employers:

If your business is reducing hours or closing due to COVID-19 you may expedite the unemployment claim process for your employees by providing one of the following lists:

1. Mass Layoff List: This is the preferred method if your business has already closed and you are not in contact with employees. Employers can send mass layoffs to Mass.Layoff@tn.gov
 2. Employer-Filed Mass Claim: This is the preferred method if your business has not yet closed and you believe you will reopen. If you are uncertain of a reopen date, enter 16 weeks from the date of filing. Employers can send partial layoffs to: Partial.Claims@tn.gov
- *Employers that do not file one of these two lists, will be required to respond to each individual employee's claim, delaying the benefit payment process.*
 - Additional information on these lists can be found here: <https://www.tn.gov/workforce/covid-19/employers.html>
 - Employers should encourage your employees to have an active email address to ensure this process works efficiently.
 - Employees to look for an email so they can register at [Jobs4TN.gov](https://www.tn.gov/jobs4tn), where they will complete weekly certifications to notify the state they are still not working.

For Tennessee FAQs, go here: <https://www.tn.gov/workforce/covid-19/faq.html>

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.