
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 Texas Workforce Commission's latest unemployment updates.

Texas has released information for employers impacted by COVID-19. It is noted that there has not been any legislation passed concerning unemployment benefits. Following the more flexible federal guidelines, the following changes have been implemented by the TWC:

- Work search requirements are now waived for all claimants
- The waiting week for those claimants affected by COVID-19 is also waived.

CCC has noted that the TWC is operating with business as usual for unemployment hearings. For in-person hearings, those they would like to appear by phone must make a request to do so. As well, all postponement request will be granted on a case by case basis.

While the TWC has not made any legislative changes they are providing information regarding Employer FAQs here <https://twc.texas.gov/files/agency/faq-texas-employers-twc.docx>

Employer's whose business is affected by COVID-19:

- Texas has advised employers that in the event that they may need to close, temporarily or permanently, and need to lay off employees, to submit a mass claim for unemployment benefits on behalf of their employees. To see more information on Mass Claim Submissions, go here: <https://twc.texas.gov/businesses/mass-claims-unemployment-benefits> or call TWC's Mass claims Coordinator at 512-463-2999
- In the event that an employer may need to reduce Employee hours due to COVID-19, to consider TWC's Shared Work Program. For more information on TWC's Shared Work Plan, go here: <https://twc.texas.gov/businesses/shared-work> or call 512-340-4337.

To see more information on Texas's response to COVID-19, go here: <https://twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-employers#unemploymentBenefits>

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.