
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 Virginia Unemployment Commission's latest unemployment updates.

Governor Northam has directed effective March 15, 2020 for unemployment claims filed:

- The one week waiting period be waived
- The requirement to conduct a weekly job search be suspended for those receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

Important to note: All unemployment offices have been closed.

Claimants MAY be eligible (dependent if they meet monetary eligibility) if:

- If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available,
- If an employer must lay off employees due to the loss of production caused by the Coronavirus
- If an employer temporarily lays off employees due to any loss or lack of work due to COVID-19
- If an employer requires a worker to stay home for the COVID-19 incubation period (14 days) after travel or contact with an infected person
- An employee is ill because of COVID-19 and unable to work, with an issued notice to self-quarantine by a medical professional, and have spoken to their employer regarding paid sick or medical leave
- An employee must stay home to care for an ill family member and are not receiving paid family medical leave from their employer

Assistance for Employers:

- Regional workforce teams will be activated to support employers that slow or cease operations. Employers who do slow or cease operations will not be financially penalized for an increase in workers requesting unemployment benefits.
- The Governor is authorizing rapid response funding, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, for employers eligible to remain open during this emergency. Funds may be used to clean facilities and support emergency needs.

Virginia's Q&As for workers regarding COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Frequently-Asked-Questions-from-Workers-Regarding-COVID-19.pdf>

Virginia's Q&As on Claims Related to Coronavirus can be found here: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/qa-coronavirus>

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.