
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 Workforce West Virginia's latest unemployment updates.

Governor, Jim Justice issued an executive order on Thursday, March 19, directing WorkForce West Virginia and the West Virginia Department of Commerce to provide unemployment benefits to those affected by COVID-19 and administer them to the maximum extent permitted by federal law.

Gov. Justice's executive order allows WorkForce to:

- Waive the one-week waiting period for eligible West Virginians to receive unemployment benefits
- Waive the able and available work requirement
- Waive the work search requirement
- Unemployment benefits will be available to eligible individuals who are requested by a medical professional, local health authority or employer to be isolated or quarantined as a consequence of COVID-19, even if they are not actually diagnosed.

The order also specifically outlines that the following individuals should be eligible for benefit if the unemployment is due to medical condition or disease control measures related to COVID-19:

- Separated from employment,
- Have had their hours of employment reduced,
- Are prevented from working

For more information regarding West Virginia's COVID-19 response go here: <https://workforcewv.org/covid19>

See the Executive Order here: <https://governor.wv.gov/Documents/2020%20Executive%20Orders/Executive-Order-March-19-2020-Unemployment.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.