
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.

Pennsylvania released information regarding employees seeking unemployment due to the effects of COVID-19.

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, 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.
- At this time, benefits are not being extended beyond 26 weeks.
- All unemployment hearing offices are closed, and PA will begin scheduling telephonic hearings as of March 30th.

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.