DATE: MARCH 17TH, 2020

TOPIC: COVID-19 & UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE - EMPLOYEE

SOURCE: https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/covid/workers/

BACKGROUND

DEED’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) program assists workers who can’t work, have their hours reduced or lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic. The UI program is prepared and ready to assist these workers. If you are unemployed or have your hours reduced, you may apply for unemployment benefits by visiting www.uimn.org.

If you are unemployed or have your hours reduced, please apply for unemployment benefits by going online to www.uimn.org.

Please use the www.uimn.org website to submit your application, because this is the most efficient way to serve applicants.

The website can accept applications Monday – Friday 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. We are working to add Sunday hours.

Given the volume of expected applications, DEED is asking for applicants’ patience as they ramp up to meet demand in this unprecedented situation.

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS OR HAD THEIR HOURS CUT BECAUSE OF COVID-19.

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1. **If you are a bar, restaurant or other worker affected by temporary closures**

   Businesses ordered to temporarily close include:

   a. Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, and other places of public accommodation offering food or beverage for on-premises consumption. This excludes institutional and in-house food cafeterias for businesses, hospitals, and long-term care facilities;

   b. Bars, taverns, brew pubs, brewerries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, clubs, and other places of public accommodation that offer alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption;

   c. Hookah bars, cigar bars, and vaping lounges offering their products for on-premises consumption;

   d. Theaters, cinemas, museums, and indoor and outdoor performance venues;

   e. Gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoors sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, and spas;

   f. Places of public amusement, including amusement parks, arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, indoor climbing facilities, skating rinks, trampoline parks, and other similar recreational or entertainment facilities;

   g. Places of public accommodation, including the facilities of country clubs, golf clubs, boating or yacht clubs, sports or athletic clubs, and dining clubs.

   **If you are unemployed or have your hours reduced, please apply for unemployment benefits by going online to [www.uimn.org](http://www.uimn.org).** The website can accept applications Monday – Friday 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. We are working to add Sunday hours.

2. **If you are sick or quarantined due to COVID-19**

   If you're unable to work due to being sick with COVID-19 or having been exposed to COVID-19, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits. If your illness from or exposure to the virus has made it medically necessary to quit your job, you should **apply for Unemployment Insurance benefits.**

3. **If you are caring for a person who is sick with COVID-19**

   If you're unable to work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits. If you need to quit your job in order to provide necessary care because of the illness, injury, or disability of an immediate family member, you should **apply for Unemployment Insurance benefits.**
4. **Children of emergency workers**

If you are a healthcare or other emergency worker, school districts are directed to provide care for your children age 12 and under. School districts and charters will handle the verification of students, which may include securing a letter from the employer or showing an employment badge. The Governor also encourages school districts and charters to also provide extended care – before and after school hours – to students of emergency workers. You can see list of emergency workers on the [Minnesota Department of Education Website](#).

5. **Caring for children at home due to lack of school or child care**

If you had to quit your job due to a lack of child care, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits. If you made reasonable efforts to find alternative child care and you requested time off/other accommodations from your employer, but your employer denied those requests, you should [apply for Unemployment Insurance benefits](#).

6. **If your hours of work are reduced or if you are laid off due to COVID-19**

If your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you should [apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits](#). UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own. Workers who are temporarily unemployed due to COVID-19 and expected to return to work with their employer within a few weeks should stay in touch with their employer and be prepared to return to work as soon as it is available again.

7. **Worker protections related to COVID-19**

You may be eligible for workers compensation if you become sick on the job and you have the right to other protections to care for yourself and your family. See more information on the [Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry’s Worker Protections page](#).