

INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

If you are employed in Pennsylvania and are unable to work because of Coronavirus disease ([COVID-19](#)), you may be eligible for Unemployment or Workers' Compensation benefits. The Department of Labor & Industry will continue to provide important employment benefit updates as the situation evolves.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (UC) BENEFITS

You may be eligible if:

- Your employer temporarily closes or goes out of business because of COVID-19
- Your employer reduces your hours because of COVID-19
- You have been told not to work because your employer feels you might get or spread COVID-19
- You have been told to quarantine or self-isolate, or live/work in a county under government-recommended mitigation efforts

Apply:

- [Online](#) – it's the fastest and easiest way to get started

Important info:

- If you are eligible for UC, you will receive two letters and a four-digit PIN
- Your PIN will arrive in the U.S. mail – keep it in a safe, easy to remember place
- If approved, your first benefit payment should arrive within four weeks of filing for UC
- Continue filing your bi-weekly claim (every two weeks) – **even while waiting for approval**
- We are experiencing very large call volumes. Please email us at uchelp@pa.gov, or via [UC LiveChat](#).
- **(NEW) 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
- **(NEW) 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.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION (WC) BENEFITS

Two filing options:

- If you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in your workplace, you may be eligible for Workers' Compensation (WC) by either:
- Notifying your employer to file a typical "disease-as-injury" WC claim, which requires you to provide medical evidence that you were exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace
- Notifying your employer to file an "occupational disease" WC claim, which requires you to show that COVID-19 is occurring more in your occupation/industry than in the general population

Claims:

- All WC claims (including COVID-19) are thoroughly reviewed, and decisions are made based on the facts and merits of each claim and the law
- If your COVID-19 claim is denied, you may file a petition with the WC [Office of Adjudication](#)
- Learn more about [Workers' Compensation and the Injured Worker](#)

You can also access this information as a [printable PDF](#).

For the most accurate and timely COVID-19 information in Pennsylvania, visit the PA Department of Health website, health.pa.gov, [Facebook](#) [Opens In A New Window](#) page and [Twitter](#) [Opens In A New Window](#) account.