

We are all in a very unique situation and things are changing every hour and every day. First, most conversations and questions we are getting are around temporary workforce reductions (sample below), so we are making sure businesses are consistently checking the Employment Security Department's COVID-19 newsroom page at <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19-employer-information> - many other major resource links can be found there like our Governor's updates, Healthcare and Financial Assistance (including SBA Loans.)

**Q. What programs are offered to assist businesses to keep workers during COVID-19?**

**A. We have expanded programs to help support businesses and workers whose financial stability is affected by COVID-19.**

- **SharedWork:** This program allows employers to reduce the hours of permanent and hourly-paid employees by as much as 50 percent, and the employees can collect partial unemployment benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. While on the SharedWork program, employees are not required to make an active search for work. You must apply to participate in the program. The application and instructions can be found [here](#).
- **Partial employment** (for reduction in hours): If you are temporarily reducing hours of work for your full-time employees, they may be able to receive unemployment benefits without needing to look for work.
- **Standby:** Your employees may be eligible for standby. Standby means they do not have to look for other work but need to be available for any work you offer that they can do if quarantined or isolated. Under the new emergency rules, temporary shutdowns related to COVID-19 infection at the place of business that cause you to close or severely reduce operations are considered extraordinary circumstances.

Lastly, if you are still in contact with your employees and they would like to see some temporary opportunities for the interim they can visit: [www.worksourceskc.org/critical-job-opportunities](http://www.worksourceskc.org/critical-job-opportunities).