



Department of Workforce Development

Search DWD's Website [] 

- [UNEMPLOYMENT](#) +
 - [Claimants](#)
 - [Employers](#)
 - [Service Providers](#)
- [WORKPLACE INJURY](#) +
 - [Workers](#)
 - [Employers](#)
 - [Insurers](#)
 - [Medical Providers](#)
 - [Workplace Safety](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
- [EQUAL RIGHTS](#) +
 - [Labor Standards](#)
 - [Civil Rights](#)
 - [FMLA](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
- [EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING](#) +
 - [Job Seekers](#)
 - [Employers](#)
 - [Veterans](#)
 - [Partners](#)
 - [WisConomy](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
- [DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT](#) +
 - [About DVR](#)

- [How to Apply](#)
- [For Job Seekers](#)
- [For Businesses](#)
- [Our Partners](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [ABOUT DWD +](#)
 - [Leadership](#)
 - [News Room](#)
 - [Public Meetings](#)
 - [Organization Chart](#)
 - [Open Records](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)

- 1.
2. [COVID-19](#)
3. [Public](#)
4. [UI](#)

Unemployment COVID-19 Public Information

Frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 Coronavirus and Wisconsin Unemployment Benefits for [claimants](#) and [employers](#).

Last updated on 3/25/2020 at 2:30 pm

Information for Claimants

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

I was asked to update my name. Where do I go to make the update?

We have updated our system to now allow you to change your name online. Please log in at <https://my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov>. Near the top of the page, click on "Unemployment Services" and "Change Personal Information." After you have entered your current information, click on "Next" and continue to follow the prompts.

I needed to start my unemployment claim (initial application) two weeks ago but I did not. Will it create an eligibility issue if I choose to start my claim to include those two weeks?

Currently, you may go back two weeks from the week you start your initial application without an eligibility issue. Once you begin the claim, you will be

brought to a calendar. Simply choose the correct week you want the claim to begin.

Am I required to search for work during the COVID-19 pandemic?

As a result of Governor Evers [Emergency Order](#), you do not need to do a work search during the Governor's declared emergency. The Department is in the process of making the necessary updates. No action is needed on your part regarding the work search.

Do I still need to register for work (register with JCW) if I'm not required to do a work search?

Some individuals who apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) may be required to register with the Job Center of Wisconsin (JCW). You will be notified upon completion of your claim if you are required to complete the registration. More information can be found on our [Registration for Work FAQ](#).

My employer is currently closed, and I don't have an exact return to work date, but I am going back to work for my employer. Why am I required to register on Job Center of Wisconsin (JCW)?

Registration is a requirement of Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and must be completed in order to maintain eligibility for benefits. More information can be found on our [Registration for Work FAQ](#).

I'm self-employed, can I receive unemployment benefits?

No, not at this time. To be eligible, you need covered employment in your base period (roughly, the last 15 months), meaning you need to have worked for an employer who pays unemployment tax.

Will I qualify for unemployment benefits if the coronavirus (COVID-19) causes my employer to shut down operations?

Wisconsin unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available, individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary criteria and the weekly eligibility criteria.

My employer has not told me that I am laid off, but my workplace is closed and I don't have hours. Am I still eligible?

Wisconsin unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available, individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary criteria and the weekly eligibility criteria even if their employer has not told them they are laid off.

My hours have been reduced, am I still eligible to apply for UI benefits even though I still have a job?

Wisconsin unemployment benefits are available to individuals partially unemployed due to working reduced hours. Individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary criteria and the weekly eligibility criteria.

If I work less than full-time, may I apply for unemployment if I'm out of work due to COVID-19?

Anyone may apply for Unemployment Insurance. For additional information see the [Claimant Handbook Part 6: Eligibility Issues](#).

If I impose a self-quarantine because of the coronavirus, will I be eligible for unemployment benefits?

In most cases, no. Unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are totally or partially unemployed due to no fault of their own. In this example, the individual "not the employer" is choosing not to work and, therefore, would be ineligible. However, the facts of each circumstance are important. If the employer allowed this individual to telework, they would not qualify for benefits because they would not be unemployed. If the employer required the individual to stay home but did not offer telework, the individual might be eligible for benefits if they met the monetary and weekly eligibility criteria.

If I am in mandatory quarantine because of suspicion of having the coronavirus, will I be eligible for unemployment benefits?

If the employer has instructed the individual to return to work after the quarantine is over and the employee intends to return to the work after the quarantine ends, that may be a temporary layoff for which the employee may be eligible for benefits. However, if it is unclear if the employee will return to that employer after the quarantine, the employee might meet the initial eligibility criteria but not the ongoing federal eligibility criteria, which require them to be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking suitable work.

If I am ill because of the coronavirus and unable to work, will I be eligible for unemployment benefits?

No. The federal requirements mandate that claimants be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking suitable work. If someone is so ill that they are unable to work, they would not meet these criteria.

Is the coronavirus considered to be a disaster, and can I receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

If the president of the United States declares the coronavirus a national disaster, if individuals experience a loss of work in Wisconsin as a result, and if the individual is not eligible for regular unemployment benefits, they may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

What happens if the school I work at shuts down for coronavirus? Will I be eligible?

If this closure is not during a customary break period, or extends longer than the customary break period, individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary and weekly eligibility criteria.

May I apply for unemployment if I'm a student (high school and/or college)?

Please see the [Claimant Handbook Part 6 Eligibility Issue, Filing for Unemployment Benefits While a Student](#).

I am required to attend a re-employment services session, but I don't want to go to a public location until COVID-19 has run its course. What do I do?

Some individuals who apply for UI may be required to participate in the Re-Employment Services program, which provides additional services to help them get back to work more quickly. Previously, the program required participants attend an in-person workshop. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this workshop will now be conducted remotely over the phone. Participants should watch their email for updates.

All Re-Employment Services sessions scheduled after Friday, March 20, 2020 will be conducted over the phone as "tele-sessions." What participants should know:

- After registering on [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](#) (JCW) and creating a resume, individuals may be asked to view an online orientation and take an assessment.
- At the end of the assessment, participants will be informed if they must participate in the Re-Employment Services program.
- Participants will be asked to sign up for a three-hour window for the "tele-session."
- The participant will be called at some point during the three-hour window they have selected.
- A presentation will be emailed to the participant prior to the phone call for reference.
- The participant must be available and answer the phone when called by the Re-Employment Services facilitator.
- The facilitator will call twice.
- Failure to answer the phone after the two attempts could result in a loss of UI benefits.
- The incoming call may be from an "unknown" or "blocked" caller.

It is up to the participant to ensure their contact information is correct. Contact information can be reviewed on [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](#) under "My Account" on the top right of the screen.

What if I am required to participate in a re-employment session and do not complete it online, by phone, or otherwise?

If you fail to participate in your mandatory session, you may be denied unemployment benefits unless it is determined you had good cause for missing the session.

Some individuals who apply for UI may be required to participate in the Re-Employment Services program, which provides additional services to help them get back to work more quickly. Previously, the program required participants to attend an in-person workshop. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this workshop will now be conducted remotely over the phone. Participants should watch their email for updates.

All Re-Employment Services sessions scheduled after Friday, March 20, 2020 will be conducted over the phone as "tele-sessions." What participants should know:

- After registering on JobCenterofWisconsin.com (JCW) and creating a resume, individuals may be asked to view an online orientation and take an assessment.
- At the end of the assessment, participants will be informed if they must participate in the Re-Employment Services program.
- Participants will be asked to sign up for a three-hour window for the "tele-session."
- The participant will be called at some point during the three-hour window they have selected.
- A presentation will be emailed to the participant prior to the phone call for reference.
- The participant must be available and answer the phone when called by the Re-Employment Services facilitator.
- The facilitator will call twice.
- Failure to answer the phone after the two attempts could result in a loss of UI benefits.
- The incoming call may be from an "unknown" or "blocked" caller.

It is up to the participant to ensure their contact information is correct. Contact information can be reviewed on JobCenterofWisconsin.com under "My Account" on the top right of the screen.

Is there still a "waiting week" for those applying for unemployment insurance?

Currently, Governor Tony Evers has asked the state legislature to repeal the waiting week. The waiting week is state law that was enacted with Act 32 in 2011. For more information, please see the link to the press release: [Governor Evers to Issue Emergency Order Waiving Work Search, Modifying Availability Requirements for UI Benefits.](#)

Will filing for unemployment benefits negatively affect my immigration status?

No, filing for unemployment benefits should not negatively affect a noncitizen's immigration status or result in a public charge bar to residency or other nonimmigration status in the future. To be eligible for unemployment benefits,

noncitizen workers have to meet the same requirements as U.S. citizen workers in Wisconsin. **Note: To qualify for unemployment benefits, noncitizen residents must be authorized to work in the United States and their wages used to determine eligibility for benefits must be earned while authorized to work in the United States.**

My child is off from school, and I have to stay home to care for them. May I receive unemployment?

The key is whether you are available for full-time work. If you are capable of performing full-time work if it is made available to you, you would be considered available for work and may be eligible for unemployment.

Will there be a UI extension for those already on unemployment and near the end of their benefit but unable to find work due to COVID-19?

Not yet. If Wisconsin qualifies, federal legislation that was passed on March 18, 2020 will provide up to 26 weeks of Extended Benefits. If Wisconsin qualifies, updates will be provided. See [Unemployment Extensions FAQs](#) for more information about extensions.

Information for Employers

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Will workers qualify for unemployment benefits if the coronavirus (COVID-19) causes an employer to shut down operations?

Wisconsin unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available, individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary criteria and the weekly eligibility criteria.

If an employee receives unemployment benefits as a result of a coronavirus-related business shutdown, will the employer's unemployment taxes increase?

Unemployment benefits are proportionately charged to each employer based on weeks worked and wages earned in each individual's base period. Contributory employers could see an increase in their tax rate, which would result in higher taxes. Reimbursable employers would be charged dollar for dollar for benefits paid, which could result in higher than expected unemployment costs.

If an employee receives unemployment benefits as a result of a coronavirus-related business shutdown, can the benefits be charged to the fund's balancing account?

No, Wisconsin law does not allow that.

If an employee imposes a self-quarantine because of the coronavirus, will they be eligible for unemployment benefits?

In most cases, no. Unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are totally or partially unemployed due to no fault of their own. In this example, the individual “not the employer” is choosing not to work and, therefore, would be ineligible. However, the facts of each circumstance are important. If the employer allowed this individual to telework, they would not qualify for benefits because they would not be unemployed. If the employer required the individual to stay home but did not offer telework, the individual might be eligible for benefits if they met the monetary and weekly eligibility criteria.

If an employee is in mandatory quarantine because of suspicion of having the coronavirus, will they be eligible for unemployment benefits?

They might meet the initial eligibility criteria but not the ongoing federal eligibility criteria, which require them to be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking suitable work.

If an employee is ill because of the coronavirus and unable to work, will they be eligible for unemployment benefits?

No. The federal requirements mandate that claimants be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking suitable work. If someone is ill, they would not meet these criteria.

Unemployment Resources

- [Apply for Unemployment Benefits](#)
- [Other Unemployment FAQs for Claimants](#)
- [Other Unemployment FAQs for Employers](#)

COVID-19 Resources

- [Wisconsin DHS Website](#)
- [CDC Website](#)