

COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR NEVADANS

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The outbreak of COVID-19 in Nevada has led to restrictions on nonessential business, causing many Nevadans to seek unemployment assistance. The [Employment Security Division \(ESD\)](#) of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation is responsible for administering the unemployment insurance program in Nevada. During this pandemic, the ESD has adjusted certain requirements for unemployment insurance eligibility.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY

The ESD has provided the following information concerning how its administration of unemployment benefits will be adjusted for workers affected by COVID-19.

USUAL REQUIREMENTS

Generally, to qualify for unemployment benefits, a person must be fully or partially unemployed, must have earned enough wages to qualify, and must be unemployed through no fault of his or her own. A claimant must file each week and must be able to work, be available for work, and actively be seeking work.

Eligible applicants receive payment of benefits approximately seven days after filing their first weekly claim. The maximum benefit is set at \$469 per week for up to 26 weeks, unless extended by law. Further eligibility information can be found in the [Nevada Unemployment Insurance Facts for Claimants](#) handbook (available in English and [Spanish](#)).

REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, Nevada has waived the work search requirement and the seven-day wait period, meaning eligible applicants are able to access unemployment benefits more quickly.

Among other items, additional eligibility guidelines include:

- Employees may be eligible if an employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work;
- Employees may be eligible if they are quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and
- Employees are not eligible if they are not working and still receiving pay, including pay for accrued sick leave or vacation hours.

On March 27, 2020, the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) (H.R. 748 [116th Congress]) was signed into law. Among other items, the Act expands unemployment insurance benefits. It provides eligible applicants with an extra \$600 per week for an additional 13 weeks and expands unemployment insurance eligibility to include part-time employees and those who are self-employed. A more detailed summary of the bill is available from the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#).

For more details about unemployment benefits in Nevada during the COVID-19 outbreak, please refer to the ESD's [frequently asked questions](#).

APPLYING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There are no in-person claim filing methods at this time. Claims may be filed online through the [Claimant Self Service portal](#). The ESD provides a [guide for applicants](#), as well as [step-by-step videos](#) on how to file a claim. The telephone claim center is available only if a person does not have the ability to file online.

To provide faster results for persons making claims, beginning on April 20, 2020, the ESD is asking claimants to initiate or renew their claims online based on the first letter of their last name:

- A to K file on Sundays;
- L to R file on Mondays; and
- S to Z file on Tuesdays.

Any claimant, regardless of the first letter of his or her last name, may initiate or renew a claim online Wednesday through Saturday.

CONTACTS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM INFORMATION, RELATED QUESTIONS, AND TELEPHONE FILING

On April 15, 2020, the ESD established a [new call center](#) to assist with general questions related to the unemployment claim process. To reach the call center, toll free, dial: (800) 603-9671.

For specific questions or to file a claim by phone, contact the ESD:

Northern Nevada: (775) 684-0350

Southern Nevada: (702) 486-0350

Rural Areas and Out-of-State Callers, Toll Free: (888) 890-8211

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR WORKERS

For information concerning worker protections and employer responsibilities during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Office of the Labor Commissioner in the Department of Business and Industry has released [Employer & Employee Information on COVID-19](#).