

If you're filing for
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI)
due to the Covid-19 pandemic,
here is what you need to know.

Benefits are available to workers impacted by the Covid-19 public health emergency through the existing New Jersey program and a new emergency federal program. For both programs:

The fastest way to apply is online at
<https://myunemployment.nj.gov/>

The unemployment insurance offices are getting a huge number of requests, so filing online is the best option. Check the website for the filing schedule, which is based on the last four digits of your SSN.

If you have to apply by phone, use these numbers:

- **North NJ:** 201-601-4100
- **Central NJ:** 732-761-2020
- **South NJ:** 856-507-2340

In person applications are suspended at least until March 30.

What you need to file:

- Social Security Number.
- NJ driver's license number or photo ID card number.
- Address and phone number.
- W2's and paystubs
- Contact information & dates of employment for all employers over the last 18 months.
- Reason you lost your job.
- Amount of separation pay.
- Your recall date if you were only temporarily laid off.
- Information about your pension or 401k.
- Alien Registration Number (if applicable).

You **may** be eligible for UI under New Jersey law if:

- *You lost your job through no fault of your own.*
- *You were working full time and your hours were reduced.*
- *You are able, available, and actively seeking work*.*
- *You have done some work in NJ in the past 18 months.*
- *You earned \$200 per week for 20 weeks during the base period, or \$10,000 or more.*
- *Your employer voluntarily closed because of COVID-19*
- *Your employer was ordered closed due to COVID-19 and you've used your earned sick leave.*

**Work search requirements are suspended if you are waiting to be recalled to your job, or delaying your job search until the COVID pandemic ends or subsides.*

Weekly payment: New Jersey UI benefits are equal to 60% of the average weekly wage you earned during previous year, up to a maximum of \$713 per week.

For more info: <https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/covidinstructions.shtml>

Tip: Even if you cannot look for work until after the pandemic has passed, answer "yes" to looking for work and "no" to refusing work.

If your claim is approved:

Ongoing filing requirements: Unemployment benefits are paid weekly. For every week you want to claim benefits you must file for them. You can only file for a week of benefits once the week is over.

Taxes: Federal tax is owed on unemployment benefits, but no state tax.

Additional Federal Benefits

1. The Federal *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* provides additional benefits to workers who qualify for UI benefits under state programs and to workers who do not qualify for their state program or have exhausted their state UI benefits.
2. Workers who *qualify* for state UI benefits described above may receive Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.
 - a. Benefits available:
 - i. An additional \$600 a week on top of state UI benefits through July 31, 2020.
 - ii. Benefits are available for 39 weeks, not the usual 26 weeks
3. For workers who *do not qualify* for regular state unemployment compensation, or have *exhausted their benefits*:
 - a. You may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance if you:
 - i. Are looking for part-time work
 - ii. Do not have enough earnings to qualify for normal unemployment
 - iii. Are self-employed
 - iv. You are not working because:
 - You cannot start work or get to work because of the emergency;
 - Your worksite is closed due to the emergency
 - You are diagnosed with COVID-19, have the symptoms of COVID-19 or self-quarantine under the direction of a health-care provider;
 - A member of your household has COVID-19 or you are caring for a member of your household with COVID-19;
 - You have to take care of a child whose school or childcare facility is closed
 - You are the major earner in your household because the head of household died from COVID-19
 - If you had to quit your job as a direct result of COVID-19
 - b. Requirements:
 - i. You must certify that you are partially or fully unemployed and unable to work because of one or more of the reasons listed above
 - ii. You cannot work from home
 - iii. You are not receiving any paid sick leave
 - c. Benefits:
 - i. Benefits are available for a maximum of 39 weeks (including any weeks which a worker received state unemployment benefits)
 - ii. Benefit amount is \$600 per week (until 7/31/2020) plus ½ of the state's average weekly unemployment benefit, except for those who were eligible but exhausted state unemployment benefits, the amount is \$600 per week plus the full amount of the state benefit

