

Update related to temporary expansions in unemployment eligibility and cost-sharing

For employers that are laying off workers or suspending operations due to the coronavirus, please be aware that, according to the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA), you can request a waiver of the Work Registration and Seeking Work requirements for your laid off worker(s). This waiver must be requested PRIOR to the employees applying for benefits.

The UIA also reports that the waiver can only be requested if you expect work to be available **within 45 days** of the individual's last day of work. When applying for the waiver, employers are required to provide the employees' last day worked and the back to work date. (The employer should provide these same dates to employees, as well, as the dates on employee applications have to match the employer's.) A representative at the UIA has recommended to us that, if employers anticipate staggered layoffs, you can apply for additional waivers for each wave of layoffs. You cannot use a date prior to today's date; so if employment is already suspended this should be completed as soon as possible. Please note - If the laid off worker does not return to work within 45-days of the last day worked, the individual will need to register for work and begin looking for work. The waiver cannot be extended and late waiver requests or requests submitted without the required information will not be granted.

To request this waiver: Employers can log into their Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) account at www.michigan.gov/uia and click on the Seeking Work Waiver link – you may experience significant lag time or receive an error when attempting to log in due to high volumes. Once logged-in:

1. Select the client
2. Click on "Account Services"
3. At the bottom, select "Request Seeking Work Waiver"
4. That will take you to the following

Request for Registration and Seeking Work Waiver (RSW)

Waiver of Registration for Work, Availability and Seeking Work Requirements under Section 28 (1)(a) is requested for the following employees on a temporary layoff, not to exceed 45 days.

UIA Account Number:

Multi-Unit Number

000

Last Day Worked

17-Mar-2020



Please ensure your workers report the same Last Day Worked and Back to Work Date for the waiver to apply.

Back to Work Date

Required



Required

If this waiver request covers all employees laid off on the Last Date Worked entered above, press **Submit**.

If this waiver request is limited to employees working at a specific location, please enter the name of the location below. Only employees laid off from this specific location will be waived from registration for work, availability, and seeking work. All other employees laid off on that date will be required to register for work, be available for work, and seeking work.

Work Location of specific waived employees

Cancel

< Previous Step

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For security reasons it is important to remember to close your browser completely when you are done

5. Once your waiver is confirmed, print your Confirmation Number for your files.

The UIA also reports that it is highly likely that the waiver requirement will be eliminated, but at this time they should be filed to ensure compliance.