COVID-19 – paid leave and unemployment

I am employed and still on the job and I need paid time from work.

- I am sick from COVID or under public health order to stay home.
  - Federal paid sick days.
  - Up to two weeks; full pay up to $511/day.

- Someone else in my household is sick from COVID.
  - Federal paid sick days.
  - Up to two weeks; 2/3 pay up to $200/day.

- I need to care for someone else in my household.
  - Federal paid sick days.
  - Up to two weeks; 2/3 pay up to $200/day.

- I need to care for my child who is out of school/child care.
  - Federal paid sick days.
  - Up to two weeks; 2/3 pay up to $200/day.

- I am still unable to work after using federally available time.
  - Look into local and state paid sick days and paid family leave laws.

- I am still unable to work after using federally available time.
  - Talk to your employer about potential accommodations.

- I am still unable to work after using federally available time.
  - Apply for unemployment insurance if you must leave your job.

I am working less because of COVID.*

- You may be able to use unemployment insurance to make up some or all of the difference.

- MN offers unemployment insurance if you lose some or all of your hours.

- If you do not qualify for regular state unemployment benefits, you may be able to get pandemic unemployment assistance. To apply for pandemic unemployment assistance, see next page.

I have been laid off/furloughed/lost all my hours.*

- I am a regular employee.
  - Apply for regular state unemployment benefits.

- I’ve run out of regular and extended benefits.
  - You will automatically transition to pandemic emergency unemployment compensation.

- If you are not eligible for regular state unemployment insurance, apply for pandemic unemployment assistance.

- You can receive your state’s unemployment benefits; they will be paid for by the federal government.

- Your benefit will be at least 1/2 of your state’s regular minimum payment. May be higher.

- Pandemic unemployment assistance is up to 39 weeks of leave.

These laws have some exceptions. Read our fact sheets for details.

*Undocumented workers are not covered by these benefits.
Additional information for Minnesota

**How do I start an unemployment application in Minnesota?**

The fastest way to file is online at www.uimn.org. You can also file by phone. In the metro, call 651-296-3644. Outside the metro, call 1-877-898-9090. Note: very long wait times reported on phone numbers and state is recommending the online app be used.

**What happens after I apply?**

- It may take the state a few days or more than a week to process your application.
- Your online account may not immediately reflect the current status of your application. Do not worry. Volumes are incredibly high and people are working on it.
- Once the state determines whether you are eligible for unemployment benefits, they will notify you online and by mail.
- You will need to request payment for each week you are unemployed.
- If you are determined eligible for unemployment benefits and choose to receive payment via direct deposit, payments typically reach your account within three business days after you have requested and are authorized for payment.
- If you are determined eligible for unemployment benefits and choose to receive payment via debit card, you should receive your card in the mail in a plain white envelope about five to seven business days after you have requested payment and are authorized for payment.
- If the state is not able to establish your weekly benefit amount based on the records available to them, your payment may be delayed. Respond to any additional request for information you receive, which will likely be by mail. The state cannot make this process faster if you call.

**How do I get help with an existing unemployment claim?**

- To speak directly to a representative, call the automated phone system:
  - Twin Cities area: 651-296-3644
  - Greater Minnesota: 1-877-898-9090
  - TTY - for the hearing impaired: 1-866-814-1252
  - Make your language choice.
  - Enter your Social Security number.
  - Enter your password and then press the # key OR
  - If you are not asked to enter your password, press 2, and then press 0 to speak to a representative.
  - Press 2 for other options.
  - Press 3 for answers to commonly asked questions, then press 0 to speak to a representative.
Can I apply at any time during the week?

State asks that applicants apply on a specific day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the last digit of your Social Security number is:</th>
<th>Day of week</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0, 1 or 2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 4 or 5</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 7, 8 or 9</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What happens if I was denied or it says my benefit is zero?

Review the response carefully, look for mail questionnaires asking for additional information, apply again next week with as much information as possible.

I applied for my coaching stipend, will I get unemployment for that?

If you are otherwise still working full time in your educator role, this would likely not count as reduced hours.

What if I am taking voluntary unpaid leave?

- See next page for an additional chart.
- Under the current executive order, you may be eligible for benefits if you are on a leave of absence and:
  - A health authority or a health care professional has recommended or ordered you to stay home from work OR
  - You have been notified that your ordinary child care is unavailable and you are unable to find either A) alternative child care or B) an accommodation from your employer.
  - You may also be eligible for benefits if you took a voluntary layoff to avoid the layoff of another employee. Conditions apply.
- An applicant who elects to become temporarily unemployed in order to avoid the layoff of another employee with the applicant’s employer due to lack of work is not ineligible for benefits under the leave of absence provisions of section 268.085, subdivision 13a, nor ineligible under the quit provisions of section 268.095, if:
  - the election is authorized under a collective bargaining agreement or written employer policy;
  - the employer has accepted the applicant’s election;
  - the employer provides a written certification that is provided to the department that the applicant’s election prevented another employee with the employer from being laid off due to lack of work; and
  - both the applicant and the employer, at the time of the election, expect the applicant’s unemployment from the employer to be temporary.
- In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), for unemployment benefits to be payable, an applicant must meet all the other benefit eligibility requirements under this chapter, including being available for suitable employment with a different employee.
I was on voluntary unpaid leave and am now laid off, what happens next?

If you were on voluntary unpaid leave to avoid the layoff of another employee, or for child care or health reasons, see the chart on the next page. If you were on voluntary unpaid leave for reasons outside those three, you are likely not eligible.

Voluntary unpaid leave and unemployment

What if I am taking voluntary unpaid leave?

a. Under the current EO, you may be eligible for benefits if you are on a leave of absence and:

   i. A health authority or a health care professional has recommended or ordered you to stay home from work OR

   ii. You have been notified that your ordinary child care is unavailable and you are unable to find either A) alternative child care or B) an accommodation from your employer.

   iii. You may also be eligible for benefits if you took a voluntary layoff to avoid the layoff of another employee. Conditions apply.

b. (1) The election is authorized under a collective bargaining agreement or written employer policy;

c. (2) The employer has accepted the applicant’s election;

d. (4) Both the applicant and the employer, at the time of the election, expect the applicant’s unemployment from the employer to be temporary.

e. (b) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), for unemployment benefits to be payable, an applicant must meet all the other benefit eligibility requirements under this chapter, including being available for suitable employment with a different employee.