



Notice to Members with No or Low Hours

On March 16, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued an Executive Order which provides workers impacted by COVID-19 immediate access to unemployment benefits.

Below is a summary of the Order:

1. Waives the waiting week
2. Waives the requirement to search for work
3. Waives the impact on the employer's experience rating
4. Does not extend benefits
5. Applies to UI applications submitted after March 1, 2020
6. Applies when:
 - a. Health professionals say worker can't work because of COVID
 - b. Worker has COVID
 - c. Worker is in a risk category for COVID
 - d. Employer tells employee not to come to work because someone else has COVID or a "communicable disease"
 - e. Worker can't get childcare or other accommodations to take care of school aged children
7. Does not apply if worker chooses not to go to work

Other items to note:

1. A worker does not have to be unemployed to collect UI. If their hours are dramatically reduced because of COVID, they should still apply for UI and state the reason is due to COVID.
2. Also, DEED is asking for patience around eligibility determinations and the processing of applications.

Fraternally,

Russ Scherber

Business Manager

RS/bm

opeiu #12 afl-cio