



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

**Strength in Numbers 95,000**

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

### INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

If you are employed in Pennsylvania and are unable to work because of Coronavirus disease ([COVID-19](#)), you may be eligible for Unemployment or Workers' Compensation benefits. The Department of Labor & Industry will continue to provide important employment benefit updates as the situation evolves.

Visit our [COVID-19 site](#) for information and FAQs updated regularly.

Use our [Keep Yourself Safe at Work During a COVID-19 Pandemic one-pager](#) for safety information and resources.

#### Federal CARES Act Update

[You can now apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\)](#), expanded eligibility for individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for unemployment benefits (e.g. self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig workers).

Visit our [federal CARES Act page](#), and frequently asked questions for [PUA](#), [Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation \(FPUC\)](#) and [Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation \(PEUC\)](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (UC) BENEFITS

#### **IMPORTANT CLAIMANT UPDATES**

#### You may be eligible if:

- Your employer temporarily closes or goes out of business because of COVID-19
- Your employer reduces your hours because of COVID-19
- You have been told not to work because your employer feels you might get or spread COVID-19
- **You have been told to quarantine or self-isolate, or live/work in a county under government-recommended mitigation efforts**

## Apply:

- [Online](#) – it's the fastest and easiest way to get started

## Important info:

- If you are eligible for UC, you will receive two letters and a four-digit PIN
- Your PIN will arrive in the U.S. mail – keep it in a safe, easy to remember place
- If approved, your first benefit payment should arrive within four weeks of filing for UC
- Continue filing your bi-weekly claim (every two weeks) – **even while waiting for approval**
- **We are experiencing very large call volumes. Please email us at [uchelp@pa.gov](mailto:uchelp@pa.gov).**
- For specific questions about your claim, provide your full name (as it appears on your claim, including any suffix used) and the last four digits of your Social Security Number. **Note: Duplicative emails and/or requests may cause delays.**

The following rules have been temporarily suspended due to Governor Tom Wolf's emergency declaration to make it easier to file for UC benefits:

- **Work Search and Work Registration requirements are temporarily suspended for all UC claimants.** Claimants are not required to prove they have applied or searched for a new job to maintain their UC benefits. Claimants are also not required to register with [PACareerLink.pa.gov](http://PACareerLink.pa.gov).
- **The Waiting Week is temporarily suspended for all UC claimants.** Previously, eligible claimants would not receive compensation for the first week of unemployment. Eligible claimants may now receive benefits for the first week that they are unemployed.

## IMPORTANT CLAIMANT UPDATES

- **Important information for CLAIMANTS in BANKRUPTCY** – Due to COVID-19, regular mail collection to the Department of Labor & Industry may be delayed or interrupted for the next few weeks due to many commonwealth employees working from home. As a result, if you have sent the department a bankruptcy notice, it may not be reviewed in time to avoid sending you billing notices or automatically offsetting your benefits. To provide us with your bankruptcy notice in a timely fashion, please send information about your bankruptcy to the following resource account at [RA-OUCB-BPC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-OUCB-BPC@pa.gov). If you are able, please attach a copy of any bankruptcy paperwork to the email to expedite processing. If you are unable to attach the bankruptcy notice, please include your name, bankruptcy number, and the last four digits of your Social Security number on the email. We will make
- every effort to stop inappropriate collection efforts once we receive your email. If an amount is mistakenly taken by offset, a refund will be made as soon as possible.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION (WC) BENEFITS

### Two filing options:

- If you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in your workplace, you may be eligible for Workers' Compensation (WC) by either:

- Notifying your employer to file a typical "disease-as-injury" WC claim, which requires you to provide medical evidence that you were exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace
- Notifying your employer to file an "occupational disease" WC claim, which requires you to show that COVID-19 is occurring more in your occupation/industry than in the general population

### Claims:

- All WC claims (including COVID-19) are thoroughly reviewed, and decisions are made based on the facts and merits of each claim and the law
- If your COVID-19 claim is denied, you may file a petition with the WC [Office of Adjudication](#)
- Learn more about [Workers' Compensation and the Injured Worker](#)

You can also access this information as a [printable PDF](#).

**For the most accurate and timely COVID-19 information in Pennsylvania, visit the PA Department of Health website, [health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov), [FacebookOpens In A New Window](#) page and [TwitterOpens In A New Window](#) account.**

#### PIN & Determinations Information - Updated 4/28/20

**PIN and Determinations:** If you filed a new Initial Claim application, you will receive a Claim Confirmation Letter via U.S. Postal Service usually within 7-10 business days that will include your Personal Identification Number or PIN.

Due to current volumes, **you may not receive your PIN in time to file biweekly, but you will be able to file for all missed weeks dating back to the first week your unemployment began once your PIN arrives.** You will also receive your Notice of Financial Determination Letter via U.S. Postal Service usually within the same timeframe.

**If it has been more than 3 weeks, and you have NOT received your PIN, you may submit a PIN Reset Request via our [online form](#).**

**Reopens:** If you just reopened your existing claim, this will be the only time you should do so unless you go back to work and are subsequently unemployed. A staff member must manually process the reopen that you just submitted, and the department is working through the thousands of reopens we receive, daily. It may be possible that your biweekly claims are not ready for you to file on your filing date. Please be patient and do not further delay your claim by using this application to reopen your claim, again.

**If the biweekly filing system tells you on your filing date that your weeks are inactive, simply try filing your biweekly claims one time each day until you are able to successfully file. Biweekly filing is not available on Saturdays.** If you opened a claim within the last twelve months, your PIN and Notice of Financial Determination were issued when you opened your original claim.

**PAGE FOUR QUICK REFERENCE SHEET [printable PDF](#).**



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- If approved, your first benefit payment should arrive within four weeks of filing for UC
- Continue filing your bi-weekly claim (every two weeks) – even while waiting for approval
- Find call center hours and other vital info at [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov); learn all UC benefit requirements by visiting the [self-service guide](#); or use [UC LiveChat](#)

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