

Nevada Unemployment Insurance for CLAIMANTS

COVID-19 coronavirus FAQ

updated 3/23/2021

How do I file for Unemployment Insurance benefits?

File a claim online using the Claimant Self Service (CSS) at <u>ui.nv.gov</u>. The telephone claim center is available *only* if you are not able to file online. Staff assisted filing is available, but you may experience excessive wait times due to the current high volume.

Am I eligible for unemployment benefits if I am self-employed, 1099 worker or gig worker?

Under the CARES Act, a temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) has been established. This program provides unemployment support for otherwise ineligible workers. PUA is available to Nevada workers who are unemployed, partially unemployed, unable to work or unavailable for work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and who are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. This includes 1099 workers, gig workers, employees whose wages are not reported for unemployment insurance; employees who have not earned enough wages or worked enough hours for regular unemployment benefits; and individuals who were going to start work, but could not due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that you monitor updated information at the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information Unemployment Insurance Filers and Employers Need to Know page for instruction and updates for benefits under the *Pandemic Unemployment Assistance* program.

Will I qualify for unemployment benefits if the coronavirus (COVID-19) causes my employer to shut down operations or lay-off workers?

Yes. Unemployment Insurance benefits may be available for eligible individuals who are out of work and no longer receiving pay from their employer as a result of COVID-19, if otherwise eligible.

Am I eligible for unemployment benefits if I am not working but I am still receiving my regular pay?

Workers who are still receiving their pay are not considered unemployed and are not eligible for benefits.

My employer told me I am being furloughed; am I still eligible for UI?

Depends. A separation due to layoff or furlough is similar in that you are separated from employment through no fault of your own. However, a furlough separation could potentially affect your eligibility to benefits. If you will be paid while on furlough, you may not be eligible for benefits. If your furlough will be a reduction in pay or your pay has been eliminated, then you may be eligible for benefits.

Are there any extensions available? Updated 3/19/2021

Yes. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 provides for a temporary federal program called Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). This program provided 13 weeks of regular unemployment insurance (UI) for eligible claimants whose claims have been exhausted (i.e., all eligible UI funds have been paid out). PEUC is payable effective March 29, 2020 through December 31, 2020. An extension signed into law on December 27, 2020 allowed for an additional 11 weeks of benefits for eligible claimants beginning week ending January 2, 2021 through week ending March 13, 2021. An additional extension was signed into law on March 11, 2021 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) authorizing up to 29 weeks to eligible claimants beginning on week ending March 20, 2021 through week ending September 4, 2021. More information on PEUC is available on DETR's COVID-19 page.

Are there any 'special' programs available other than regular Unemployment Benefits for those affected by COVID-19? Updated 3/19/2021

The Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law by the President for programs through week ending December 26, 2020 with an extension under the Continued Assistance Act of 2021 (CAA) through week ending March 13, 2021. On March 11, 2021 an additional extension of programs has been authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The Division has received guidance from the Department of Labor (DOL) and has implemented the various programs.

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): Unemployment support for otherwise ineligible workers, including self-employed, 1099 contract workers, gig workers, employees whose wages are not reported for unemployment insurance, employees who have not earned enough wages or worked enough hours for regular unemployment benefits and individuals who were going to start work, but could not due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The PUA program is available retroactive to February 2, 2020 through September 4, 2021 and provides up to 79 weeks of benefits to eligible individuals.
 - Status: The Division implemented programming through a vendor and began paying benefits to eligible claimants in May 2020.
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): 13 additional weeks of benefits for unemployment insurance exhaustees to eligible claimants beginning week ending March 29, 2020 through December 26, 2020. An 11 additional weeks of benefits to eligible claimants beginning week ending January 2, 2021 through week ending March 13, 2021. An additional 29 weeks of benefits to eligible claimants beginning week ending March 20, 2021 through week ending September 4, 2021.
 - Status: The Division implemented programming in UInv to begin paying the 11 additional PEUC benefits to eligible claimants. The Division is currently working on implementing the additional 29 weeks of PEUC to eligible claimants and will notify eligible claimants.
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC): An additional \$600 added to each week of Unemployment Insurance or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for weeks claimed April 4, 2020 through July 25, 2020. From January 2, 2021 through week ending September 4, 2021 an additional \$300 will be added to each eligible week of Unemployment Insurance or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.
 - Status: The Division implemented programming in Ulnv to pay the additional \$600/\$300 benefits to eligible claimants.

New information will be updated on <u>DETR's COVID-19 page</u> as it becomes available.

Can I file a claim in person?

No. There are no in-person claim filing methods. All JobConnect offices are temporarily closed as well.

I selected 'None of the above' when providing my employer information because they were not listed. I am locked out of my account, what should I do?

If you are locked out of your account by selecting 'None of the Above' on the UInv Claimant Registration: Employer page, send an email to internethelp@detr.nv.gov with the subject line Error Reference # (insert error number). Please include your full name, claimant ID and your date of birth in the body of the email; this will help us identify and reset your account.

The employers listed on the **Claimant Registration: Employer** page have reported wages for you. By selecting one, you are confirming you worked for one of the listed employers at some point in the past. Employers are listed by corporate or legal business names. The Division advises to have a W2 form or paycheck stub from the previous year and a half to help identify an employer.

How do I find the true name of my employer?

Your employer may be listed under their corporate or legal business name and not their "Doing Business As" (DBA) name. Review your payroll check stub, W-2, or bank direct deposit records for your employer's legal business name.

What do I do if wages are missing from my base period?

If you have wages missing or not listed in your base period, you will need file a wage protest request. Wage protests can be filed online at <u>ui.nv.gov</u>. Wage protest requests can be submitted during the registration process or when filing a new UI claim. On the **Unemployment Insurance Benefits Estimator** page, select any of the options (aside from 'The wages reported are correct') in the dropdown list under 'Do you have missing or incorrectly reported wages in the base period listed above?'. Selecting the option that best applies. You will have to answer fact finding questions about the employer and state if you have proof of earnings documentation. Your documentation must be faxed to (775) 684-0338. The Monetary unit will conduct the investigation for your wage protest and issue a resolution. Please note that any changes or additions may impact your monetary eligibility and can change your weekly and maximum benefit amounts.

How do I correct my Social Security Number (SSN) or name entered in error? Updated 3/19/2021

If you opened a claim under an incorrect SSN, you must withdraw your claim, and create another account at ui.nv.gov. Please do not use the same username as the incorrect claim when creating a new profile. To request your claim to be withdrawn send an email to lnternethelp@detr.nv.gov stating you would like your claim to be withdrawn. Please include your name, claimant ID or last 4 of your Social Security Number, and your Date of Birth or Mother's Maiden Name. If you have entered your name incorrectly, you will need to contact the telephone call center.

How do I cancel my claim if I filed one but don't need it or want it?

To request your claim to be withdrawn send an email to Internethelp@detr.nv.gov stating you would like your claim to be withdrawn. Please include your name, claimant ID or last 4 of your Social Security Number, and your Date of Birth or Mother's Maiden Name.

How do I end my claim after I return to work?

If you have returned to work, simply stop filing your weekly claims. If is not necessary to contact the Division to stop your benefits.

If my hours are reduced, am I eligible for any unemployment benefits? Updated 3/19/2021

Depends. If a person is still employed, but the regular hours of work have been reduced, depending on the number of hours that have been reduced and the amount of earnings for the week, the person may be eligible for reduced Unemployment Benefits. Recent Legislative changes have expanded eligibility for a person who performs less than full-time work to be deemed to be unemployed to include persons who are paid renumeration that is less than **one and one-half times** the amount the person would otherwise receive in unemployment benefits. This applies to all programs currently available: Unemployment Insurance (UI), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), State Extended Benefits (SEB) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims.

I have filed my initial claim for UI, now what do I do?

Once you have completed your Ulnv registration and the process of initial claim filing, your next step is to begin filing weekly claims. The Notice of Monetary Determination that will be mailed to you shows your weekly benefit amount (WBA), maximum benefit amount (MBA), and eligible number of weeks. You may file weekly claims beginning each Sunday for the prior week.

Do I still have to search for work during this crisis?

No. An executive order issue by Governor Sisolak waives all work search requirements for those who are currently filing for Unemployment Insurance benefits.

How long do work search waivers last?

Work search waivers are in place beginning March 15, 2020 for all claimants. These waivers are automatically applied to claims. Additional guidance will be provided in line with the <u>Governor's Roadmap to Recovery</u>. Changes to the requirement of waivers may occur on a **weekly** basis due to this guidance so please watch for additional instructions or advisements.

When filing my weekly claim, how do I bypass the Work Search Activity page since work search is not currently required?

To bypass the Work Search Activity page, select the, 'Submit to Continue,' button on the bottom right hand corner of the page. There is no need to enter anything in any field. SIMPLY, click the "Submit to Continue" button.

What if the system creates an issue on my claim even though the work search requirements were waived?

For benefit weeks ending on March 21, 2020 or later, the system may automatically create an 'Available—Did not look for work' issue, however this issue does not affect the claim and will NOT stop weekly benefit payments. There is no action required and claimants do not need to call the unemployment office, as this issue will be eventually removed from the claim.

Where do I get additional information?

Detailed information on Unemployment Insurance benefits can be found at <u>ui.nv.gov</u> by selecting the link for <u>Nevada Unemployment Insurance Facts for Claimants booklet</u> or by watching the <u>filing tutorial videos on YouTube</u>.

When are Unemployment Benefits paid?

Benefits are paid after a claim has been filed and all eligibility requirements have been met. Information on eligibility requirements can be found at <u>ui.nv.gov</u> by selecting the link for **Nevada Unemployment**Insurance Facts for Claimants booklet.

How do I get a weekly payment?

To request your weekly benefit payment, you must answer a series of yes and no questions online or by phone after the week has ended. Weeks begin on a Sunday and end on the following Saturday, just like a calendar. For step-by-step instructions, watch the <u>filing tutorial videos on YouTube</u>. Weekly filings can be done:

- Online choose "File Weekly Claim" once you log into your CSS account at ui.nv.gov
- By phone, choose option #1

Note – You must continue to file weekly claims even if your benefits are on hold due to eligibility issues or you are waiting for an appeal. If you have returned to work and no longer wish to request benefits, simply stop filing your weekly claims.

Where is my Unemployment Benefit Payment?

Benefit payment information is available using the Claimant Self Service (CSS) portal at <u>ui.nv.gov</u> or using the automated telephone system. You will typically receive payment for an <u>eligible</u> week within two business days of filing your weekly claim.

What if I have filed my weekly claims but I have not received any payment?

Your benefits may be on hold due to eligibility issues. The easiest and fastest way you can check the status of your claim is through the online Claimant Self Service (CSS) portal at <u>ui.nv.gov</u> or call the Telephone Claim Centers.

When do I report earnings for partial benefits? Updated 3/19/2021

You will need to report your earnings the week you worked not when you get paid. You must report all gross earnings during your weekly filing. Recent Legislative changes have expanded eligibility for a person who performs less than full-time work to be deemed to be unemployed to include persons who are paid renumeration that is less than **one and one-half times** the amount the person would otherwise receive in unemployment benefits. This applies to all programs currently available: Unemployment Insurance (UI), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), State Extended Benefits (SEB) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims.

What if I don't know my online password or username?

Username, passwords, and PIN numbers can all be recovered online at ui.nv.gov.

- Usernames can be recovered online at <u>ui.nv.gov</u>. Click on the Existing Claimant Sign In link located in the top right corner of the page. On the Claimant Login page, click the Forgot your username? link and complete all required fields marked with an asterisk [*].
- Password resets can be completed online at <u>ui.nv.gov</u>. Click on the Existing Claimant
 Sign In link located in the top right corner of the page. On the Claimant Login page,
 enter your Username and click the CLAIMANT: Forgot your password link to access the
 Self-Healing Password Recovery page. Complete steps 1-3 by entering the required
 account lookup information and create a new password.

When will I receive the debit card for benefits?

The debit card takes 5 to 10 business days to reach you. Make sure to activate your debit card as soon as you receive it. You can use this debit card anywhere the Mastercard logo is accepted or take it to any Bank of America branch location or ATM and withdraw funds. You also have the option to do direct deposit into your own bank account from the debit card. The debit card will come with instructions how

to set up direct deposit. If you have questions regarding your debit card or need debit card pin assistance, please call 888-339-8569 or visit www.bankofamerica.com/nevadauidebitcard.

How do I know if there is money on my Unemployment Benefits debit card?

You may check your updated balance and transaction record anytime day or night, even weekends and holidays, by visiting www.bankofamerica.com/nevadauidebitcard. You can view details of your purchases, including merchant name, location, date and amount. For additional information, click the link for Learn about Nevada's UI debit card at ui.nv.gov.

I received a Medical Statement, what should I do with it?

When you filed your claim for benefits, you answered that you had a medical issue preventing you from working. If this is true, you will need to have your physician fill it out and return as soon as possible. If you answered in error and have no medical issues preventing you from working, disregard the letter and log into your CSS claimant account to complete Fact Finding on the medical issue.

I received a letter stating that I have a telephone interview with an adjudicator, what should I do?

If you receive a letter indicating that you are scheduled for a telephone interview on a specific date, please be available that day to answer questions to determine your eligibility, unless otherwise advised by the Division. Make sure your fact-finding is filled out online on your account and make sure **you continue to file your weekly claim each week** throughout this process if you have not returned to work.

If you need to provide additional information, you can fax a written statement to the Adjudication Department at (775) 684-0338. Please include your name, claimant ID, and any information that will assistant in determining your eligibility. Please note, due the high call volume our fax numbers have also been experiencing delays. If you cannot get your documentation to fax due to phone lines being busy, you can mail copies of your documentation or statements to either of the Administration Offices.

- Northern Nevada: 500 East Third Street | Carson City, NV 89713
- Southern Nevada: 2800 E. St. Louis Ave | Las Vegas, NV 89104
 These are mailing addresses only and not public office for in-person assistance.

What if I cannot file a claim online and the phones are busy?

Continue to try filing your claim online. You can follow the tutorials on YouTube. There is currently an extremely high volume of people attempting to file and we understand that it can be frustrating trying to get help and not getting through. Thank you for your patience.

I received a stimulus payment; do I need to report this to Unemployment? Updated 3/19/21

No, you do not have to report any stimulus funds received. As part of the Economic Impact Payments authorized by the CARES Act, these payments are not part of your gross earned income and will not affect your eligibility to receive or continue to receive UI, PEUC, SEB or PUA benefits, nor affect your eligibility to receive the FPUC \$600 payment for week ending April 4, 2020 through July 25, 2020 or FPUC \$300 payment for week ending January 2, 2021 through September 4, 2021. For more information, please visit the IRS website for Economic Impact Payments.