

# EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 represents one of the greatest challenges Michigan has faced in our recent history, leaving thousands of Michigan workers displaced or out of work. We are doing everything we can to ensure that every Michigander can stay on their feet as we fight the spread of this virus. If you or anyone you know has been affected by this crisis, below you will find some helpful information about the assistance now available.

## Extending Unemployment Benefits

Michigan is temporarily expanding unemployment benefit eligibility to those affected by COVID-19. Benefits will be extended to:

- » Workers who are isolated, quarantined or immunocompromised, and do not have access to paid leave time or are laid off;
- » Workers who display at least one of the principal symptoms of COVID-19, including a fever or cough;
- » Workers who have had contact in the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19;
- » Workers who have an unanticipated family care responsibility, like child care due to school closures or caring for a loved one who is ill; and

Self-employed workers, gig workers, low-wage workers, and 1099-independent contractors are also eligible for Michigan's unemployment programs.

Benefits will also be extended from 20 to 39 weeks, the application eligibility period would be increased from 14 to 28 days, and the normal in-person registration and work search requirements will be suspended.

For more information or to apply for unemployment benefits, visit [Michigan.gov/UIA](https://Michigan.gov/UIA) or call (866) 500-0017.

## Greater Flexibility for Shared-Work Plans

The newest executive order provides greater flexibility to both employers and workers to use shared-work plans, including:

- » Allowing UIA to approve participation regardless of whether an employer meets the usual requirements.
- » Allowing shared-work plans whether or not an affected employee has been employed for less than three months.
- » Allowing shared-work plans for employers that certify the plan would be implemented in lieu of layoffs affecting no less than 10 percent and no more than 60 percent of employees.

## Expanding UIA Support

The number of Michigan workers displaced by this pandemic has resulted in significantly increased online and phone traffic to Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA). The latest executive order allows retirees to return to work with the UIA or the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration without affecting their pensions to assist in handling the high volume of claims. The UIA is committed to ensuring every eligible worker who needs to apply for unemployment benefits receives them.