

COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Response

Key Points

- We know that the COVID-19 pandemic creates a number of new challenges for businesses, workers, and government.
- We are working closely with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Minnesota Legislature and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to take proactive steps to ensure the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic do not cause unnecessary burdens on employers and workers in Minnesota.
- DEED's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program assists workers who can't work, have their hours reduced or lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic.
- The state's UI program is prepared and ready to assist these workers.
- If you are unemployed or have your hours reduced, you may apply for unemployment benefits by visiting: www.uimn.org
- We'll continue to post updates regularly on DEED's website (mn.gov/deed) in the coming weeks.

Q&A

How is the state prepared to handle a possible influx in UI requests?

- While the circumstances are exceptional, the processes are all in place to assist Minnesota workers and employers.
- DEED has contingency plans in place to ensure that the UI system continues to run no matter the circumstances.

Who pays into the UI fund?

- The UI Program is funded entirely by a payroll tax on employers.
- The funding collected through that payroll tax goes into the UI Trust Fund.
- Money in the UI Trust Fund can ONLY be used to pay benefits to unemployed workers.

Can the UI Trust Fund handle this volume of activity/requests?

- We believe that the Trust Fund is in good shape, and situations like this is why we are prepared.

How should employers prepare their workforce amid the pandemic?

- We know that many Minnesota businesses have taken extraordinary measures to offer telework, paid leave, and other options to their employees during this time of uncertainty.
- If your workers apply for unemployment benefits, we will let you know.

What should workers know?

- We encourage workers to talk to their employers about any health concerns.
- If ANY worker finds themselves unemployed or with significantly reduced hours, they should apply for benefits at www.uimn.org