



Maine Dept. of Labor Responses to Maine Equal Justice Questions

- Q. How long will the work search waiver and elimination of the waiting week last?**
A. The work search waiver and the elimination of the one-week waiting period are tied to the Emergency Declaration. Our current estimate is this will last until mid-May.
- Q. What is the maximum UI benefit and what is the average UI benefit?**
A. The maximum weekly benefit amount is \$445.00. The average weekly benefit amount is roughly \$340.00.
- Q. If I have to quit will I be able to get UI benefits?**
A. It depends. The Bureau will need to make a determination based on the facts of each situation once a claim for benefits is filed. We cannot give you a definite decision prior to separating from a job.
- Q. Will work search be waived for all unemployed workers, not just those laid off because of COVID-19? I am worried about exposure searching for work during this public health crisis.**
A. The Bureau of Unemployment Compensation will be waiving work search based on the duration of the Emergency Declaration. Our best estimate is that the waiver will last until mid-May.
- Q. Are immigrants eligible for UI?**
A. If they are authorized to work in the U.S. and are losing their job due to COVID-19, they are encouraged to apply.
- Q. What if my employer just says there is no work for me and I am not getting paid, but tells me I am not “laid off”? Can I get UI?**
A. If you are not working and not being paid, the Department would encourage you to apply.
- Q. What is the “base period”, how long do I have to work to qualify?**
A. It is dependent on the amount of wages earned in the base period. The base period is the first four (4) of the last five (5) completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of your benefit year. We will use the last four completed quarters if you are not eligible using the regular base period quarters.
- Q. If I apply for UI online will I get a receipt proving that I applied?**
A. No, please take a screenshot of your final confirmation page. Confirmation generally will show up in your online claim account with 24 hrs but due to claim volumes right now, it may take a little longer to appear.

Q. Can I reset my password without having to call the Department of Labor claims line and wait a long time?

A. Currently you have two attempts available to enter your password correctly. If you fail to provide the correct password a third consecutive time, your account will be locked and can only be unlocked by an unemployment representative. We recommend that if you are unsure of your password or have entered your password incorrectly twice, that you use the forgot password or forgot username links provided.

As long as you have activated the email address associated with the account when the account was created, you can click on the "Forgot Password" link underneath the login boxes to have a new temporary password generated and sent to the email address on file. Refer to the section below for instructions on how to activate your email if you have not done so already. You will be able to use this temporary password to log in and will be prompted to set up a new password, personal to you, at that time. For more information, please visit the ReEmployME Login Information page at:

<https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/remelogin/>

Q. Can I get unemployment if I receive Social Security?

A. Yes, the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation does not offset benefits for Social Security payments.

Q. What about college students who have lost work study jobs? Can they get UI?

A. Generally, students who are in work study jobs would not be covered employees. However, there may be extenuating circumstances that could be considered particularly if you have had other employment. Please file a claim if you are uncertain.

Q. I was just about to start a new job and my new employer does not want me to start yet. Can I collect UI?

A. It depends. We would look at your employment history to make a determination, please file a claim.

Q. If my employer continues my health insurance while I am on temporary layoff or leave, will this affect my UI benefits?

A. No, this will not affect your weekly UI benefits.