

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES

1. What if I need to take time off from work because I was exposed to COVID-19? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

Yes. If you are following guidance of a medical professional or public health official to isolate or quarantine yourself as a result of exposure to COVID-19 and you are not receiving paid sick leave from your employer, the District of Columbia will consider you entitled to unemployment benefits because you have reduced hours and pay.

2. What if I am asked by a medical professional or public health official to quarantine as a result of COVID-19, but I am not sick? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

Yes. If you are following guidance of a medical professional or public health official to isolate or quarantine yourself as a result of exposure to COVID-19 and you are not receiving paid sick leave from your employer, the District of Columbia will consider you entitled to unemployment benefits because you have reduced hours and pay.

3. My employer has shut down operations temporarily because an employee is sick and we have been asked to isolate or quarantine as a result of COVID-19. Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

Yes. If your employer has shut down operations temporarily due to a COVID-19 related quarantine, the District of Columbia will consider this a temporary layoff as the employer does not currently have suitable work for you but intends to call you back to work once the quarantine has ended.

4. What if my employer goes out of business as a result of COVID-19? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

Yes. If your employer goes out of business as a result of COVID-19, the District of Columbia will consider this a laid off/lack of work scenario as your employer does not have any suitable work for you.

5. What if I am temporarily laid off from work because business has slowed down as a result of COVID-19? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

Yes. If you are laid off from work temporarily, your hours are reduced due to a business slowdown, or there is a lack of demand as a result of COVID-19, you are qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits during this period.

6. When filing for unemployment insurance benefits, what do I need to provide to demonstrate a request to isolate or quarantine?

Documentation may include:

- A letter documenting a voluntary request or involuntary order to isolate or quarantine from a medical professional or local health official.
- A note from your medical provider or medical records office recommending isolation or quarantine.
- A self-determination that the Department of Health's quarantine guidance applies to you.

7. What if I am temporarily laid off from work, but continue to receive payment from my employer during the time off? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

It depends on whether you continue to receive your full wages or salary from your employer. All earnings received from your employer must be reported on your weekly claim for unemployment insurance benefits, even if you did not physically perform any work or receive earnings. You must report all gross earnings (before any deductions for taxes, health benefits, etc.). Earnings must be reported for the week you earned them, rather than when paid.

8. What should I do if I contract COVID-19 on the job? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

Yes. You would be considered eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. In addition, you may be eligible for Workers' Compensation, if you were exposed at work during regular duties and lost wages as a result. Visit <https://does.dc.gov/page/workers-compensation-does> for information about Workers' Compensation.

9. What if myself or a family member gets sick with COVID-19 and I must care for them? Am I eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?

It depends. The District of Columbia will base eligibility decisions on whether you are able to accept suitable work under these circumstances and whether any limitations on your availability constitute a withdrawal from the labor market.

10. If I am a District resident, who worked for an employer based in the state of Maryland or Virginia, who should I contact?

Please follow the links below to contact the Unemployment Compensation offices in those jurisdictions.

Maryland: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml>

Telephone: (410) 949-0022

Virginia: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/unemployed>

Telephone: (866) 832-2363

11. Where can I find additional resources about Unemployment Compensation and COVID-19?

- <https://www.does.dc.gov>
- <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>
- <https://does.dc.gov/page/unemployment-compensation>
- <https://does.dcnetworks.org/claimantservices/Logon.aspx>