Virginia: Waiver of 7-Day Waiting Period and Requirement to Conduct a Weekly Job Search for Unemployment Insurance Due to COVID-19

Description of Program and Relief

Unemployment Insurance provides temporary financial assistance to individuals who become unemployed through no fault of their own. Ordinarily, an applicant must wait 7 days after losing employment before applying for Unemployment Insurance benefits and must conduct a weekly job search to receive benefits. The Virginia Employment Commission, at the direction of Governor Northam, has waived both the 7-day waiting period and the requirement to conduct a weekly job search because of the impact of COVID-19. Additionally, although the program is typically limited to workers who were laid off or whose hours have been significantly reduced, the program has been extended to individuals who are: quarantined on their own initiative or at the direction of a medical official; caring for a family member who is ill or under quarantine; or caring for a child whose school or day care has been closed. Depending on a worker’s earnings, a worker’s benefit amount may range from a minimum of $60 per week for 12 weeks to a maximum of $378 a week for 26 weeks.

Government or Lead Agency

Virginia Employment Commission

Dates Available

Effective March 15, 2020, continuing indefinitely

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

Information on eligibility can be found [here](#). Generally, unemployment benefits are available to individuals who have been separated from employment through no fault of their own, are able and available to work, register with the state employment service, and actively seek work. Due to the impact of COVID-19, individuals no longer need to wait 7 days after losing employment before applying and do not need to conduct a weekly job search to receive benefits.
Application Deadlines (If Applicable)

N/A

Contact for More Information

Customer Contact Center: (866) 832-2363 (open 8:15 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday)

List of Additional Information

For more information, please visit:

http://www.vec.virginia.gov/qa-coronavirus


http://www.vec.virginia.gov/unemployed/claims-information/our-claims-processes


To file a claim, contact the Customer Contact Center or visit:

http://www.vec.virginia.gov/unemployed