



School for Workers
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

COVID-19 WORKER INFO

*UW-Madison School for Workers is working to analyze and summarize legal developments during the COVID-19 crises. We anticipate that regulations may further define these rights and acknowledge that details continue to change quickly.

STAY CONNECTED, CONTACT US!

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Legal Rights for Workers During COVID-19*

Wisconsin Unemployment Benefits

The CARES Act provides federal funds for increased unemployment insurance benefits up to an additional \$600 per week for up to an additional four months of benefits (over and above what state law provides). The Act provides funds for unemployment benefits for workers not traditionally eligible for benefits such as self-employed workers or independent contractors. This law provides extended benefits through December 31, 2020.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Unemployment Division administers Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance Benefits. Details of revised unemployment benefits are still being drafted, but it appears that:

- Benefits will be available to employees laid off because of COVID-19.
- Benefits will be available to employees whose workplace is closed due to COVID-19, even if not told they are “laid off.”
- Benefits will be available to employees with reduced hours.
- Benefits are not available to workers unable to work because they are ill with COVID-19.
- An additional 26 weeks of extended benefits may be available if Wisconsin qualifies for additional funding for unemployment benefits.
- As of March 30, 2020, there is still a one-week waiting period before employees begin to receive benefits.
- Unemployment benefits are based upon wages earned in the first four of the last five quarters of work completed prior to filing claim.



More information on unemployment insurance benefits can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development website:
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui>