

Unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributable to COVID-19.

FAQs for Claimants

What is unemployment insurance (UI)?

UI provides temporary income maintenance to individuals who have been separated from employment through no fault of their own and who meet all eligibility requirements, including the requirements that they be able and available for work, register with the state employment service and actively seek work. Click [here](#) for more information.

What if I'm temporarily laid off because the place where I work is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus?

An individual temporarily laid off may qualify for benefits if he or she was able, available for and actively seeking work or returning to work with their employer within 16 weeks.

How do I file for UI?

File online at labor.idaho.gov/claimantportal. If you require assistance or do not have access to a computer, please call our claims center at (208) 332-8942.

What determines if I am able to work?

An individual must be mentally and physically capable of performing a job.

What determines if I am available for work?

An individual cannot have barriers preventing them from accepting work. A barrier could include lack of child care or transportation.

Do I have to seek work?

It depends. If your employer expects you to return to employment within 16 weeks, make sure to answer 'yes' to the question asking if you are returning to work within 16 weeks on your UI application. If not, you will be required complete two work search activities per week. Click [here](#) for more information.

I have exhausted my UI benefits. Are additional benefits available?

No. No additional UI is available to individuals who have exhausted benefits for their current benefit year. If this situation changes, we will update our website.

Will my waiting week be waived?

No. There are no provisions to waive the waiting week. Click [here](#) for more information.

What if I quit my job because I am generally concerned over the COVID-19 virus?

It depends. Quitting for health reasons may be good cause. This would be determined on a case-by-case review.

What if I'm confined to my home 1) because a medical professional has diagnosed me as having COVID-19 or 2) because I must stay home to care for my spouse, parent or child, whom a medical professional has diagnosed as having COVID-19.

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If you are unable or unavailable for work, you would not meet the able and available requirements to qualify for benefits. Individuals still need to meet all eligibility requirements, including the requirements that the individual be able and available for work, and actively seeking work.

What if I leave work because my child's school has temporarily closed, and I feel I have to stay home with the child?

An individual who leaves work voluntarily without a reason attributable to the employer is generally disqualified from receiving UI. The reason the individual in this situation left work would not be considered attributable to the employer. Consequently, the individual would likely not qualify for UI. If you are unable or unavailable for work, you would not meet the able and available requirements to qualify for benefits.

What if I am currently in isolation due to COVID-19, but have not been diagnosed?

You could be eligible for benefits. This would be determined on a case-by-case review.

If there is a separation due to the coronavirus, will I receive accrued vacation/PTO or sick pay?

It depends. Idaho law does not require the payment of vacation, holiday or sick pay. These items are agreed upon between the employer and the employee. If there is any change in a policy, the employee must be notified prior to the change.