

## **COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

### **10-WEEK WORK SEARCH WAIVER**

Due to the state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor of Maryland, and the labor conditions across the state of Maryland, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor (Labor) ordered, effective March 20th, 2020, a temporary exemption from the work search requirement for individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

The Division will exempt all current and new unemployment insurance benefit recipients from the requirement to actively seek work for a ten (10) week period. The temporary exemption from the work search requirement will begin the week ending on March 21st, 2020. The exemption will apply to all claimants who apply for and are eligible for benefits up to thirty (30) days after the end of the state of emergency.

To put this exemption into effect, please code claims as a Special Exemption using JCR5.

On the next page are the Work Search Exemption Frequently Asked Questions that are published on the Division's home page. If you receive questions from claimants that you believe you should be included in the FAQ, or otherwise have suggestions for additional questions and answers for the FAQ, please provide them to your Claims Center Director or Adjudication Administrator.

**MARYLAND'S DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**  
**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
**EXEMPTION FROM THE WEEKLY WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT**

**1. Am I required to search for work during this state of emergency?**

The Maryland Secretary of Labor has ordered, effective March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a ten (10) week exemption from the requirement that claimants actively seek work every week in order to be eligible for benefits. Labor is waiving the work search requirements for all current and new unemployment insurance benefit recipients. This exemption will be in effect during the state of emergency. Individuals who apply for unemployment insurance benefits up to thirty (30) days after the end of the state of emergency will be exempt from the requirement.

Claimants who are selected to participate in a federally-required reemployment workshop during this period will be required to complete a one-on-one telephone session with a Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) facilitator to develop an individual reemployment plan (IRP). The claimant will not be required to complete the activities detailed in their IRP until the state of emergency has been lifted.

**2. I began receiving benefits before the order exempting the work search requirement was issued. Do I have to perform a work search each week?**

If you are currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits, you will be exempted from completing the weekly work search requirement for ten (10) weeks, beginning the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**3. I have been selected to participate in a reemployment workshop. Am I exempt from participating in the workshop during the state of emergency?**

If you are selected to participate in a reemployment workshop during the state of emergency, you will be scheduled to complete a one-on-one telephone session with a Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) facilitator. During the one-on-one telephone session, you will work with the RESEA facilitator to develop an individual reemployment plan (IRP). However, you will not be required to complete the activities detailed in your IRP until the state of emergency has been lifted.

**4. Although I am not required to search for work during the state of emergency, are there steps that I can take to increase my likelihood of getting reemployed once the labor market improves?**

Yes! The Division of Unemployment Insurance encourages you to complete any of the activities listed below which can be done online at the Maryland Workforce Exchange ([mwejobs.maryland.gov](http://mwejobs.maryland.gov)). By completing these activities, you can maintain and increase your skills and training and position yourself to be hired quickly when the labor market stabilizes and businesses are hiring again.

Self-Service Reemployment Activities that you can perform virtually in [MWE-REX](#):

1. Self-Service Labor Market Research
2. Skills Self-Assessment
3. Outside Web-Linked Job Referral (e.g., Career Builder, Indeed, LinkedIn)
5. Networking Events conducted in REX
6. Completion of Training Courses in ALISON-REX
7. Attending a Calendar Event posted in MWE-REX
8. Virtual Recruiter
9. Register for Work with a Private Employment Agency or Placement Facility of a School, College, or University