

Michigan Temporarily Expands Unemployment Benefits

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On March 16, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-10](#) to temporarily expand unemployment benefits for workers affected by COVID-19. The executive order will be in place until 11:59 PM on April 14, 2020.

What Workers Need to Know

1.) Unemployment benefits will be expanded to provide benefits to the following groups:

- Workers who are **quarantined, immunocompromised**, or are **sick** as a result of COVID-19 and are unable to receive paid family and medical leave or have been laid off.
- Workers who are **caring for family members** who are ill as a result of COVID-19 or are caring for children because of school/daycare closures related to COVID-19, and are unable to receive paid family and medical leave or have been laid off.
- Workers in the **healthcare industry** that are sick or quarantined as a result of COVID-19 and are unable to receive paid family and medical leave or have been laid off.

2.) Unemployment benefits will be extended for a longer period of time.

- Workers may collect unemployment benefits for up to 26 weeks (increased from 20 weeks).

3.) Specific eligibility and application requirements have been temporarily suspended.

- The in-person registration and “work search” requirements are now suspended.
- Workers now have 28 days to file for unemployment benefits (increased from 14 days).

What Employers Need to Know

1.) Employers will not be charged for unemployment benefits if:

- A worker becomes unemployed as a result of an executive order requiring the employer to close or limit business operations as a result of COVID-19.

2.) The state’s “Work Share” program will be temporarily expanded.

- Employers will no longer need a positive amount in the employer’s reserve account to participate in the Work Share program. (To review more information about the Work Share program and how to apply, please click [HERE](#).)

Helpful Resources for Workers & Employers

- For more information related to unemployment benefits please visit the following link: [Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity](#)

If you have any additional questions, please contact me directly at adillingham@benefitreview.com

Disclaimer: This Compliance Alert is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be exhaustive and should not be construed as or substituted for legal or tax advice. Please consult with legal counsel or a tax advisor for further guidance.

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