

Missouri announces return to unemployment requirements as part of state re-opening

As state re-opens as part of the **Show Me Strong Recovery** effort and businesses resume operation, the Missouri Department of Labor's (DOLIR) Division of Employment Security (DES) has announced the return of unemployment requirements.

Work search activities resume. Beginning with the week of July 5, 2020, individuals wishing to continue to receive unemployment benefits (including the \$600 federal supplement available through July 25, 2020) will be required to perform work search activities that had been lifted because they had filed a coronavirus-related unemployment claim.

Work search activities are required for programs including regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Extended Benefits (EB), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). Individuals with an employer-submitted recall date, in approved training, and those employees on the Shared Work program will be exempt from the work search requirement. All other claimants will be required to perform and report three work search activities per week to remain eligible for benefits. Union members with a hiring or referral hall may contact their hall three times per week or attend training for the required number of work search activities.

Employer account charges to resume. Also beginning July 5, 2020, employers will once again be charged for unemployment claims against their account. Employers wishing to reduce the amount of charges being made against their accounts are encouraged to report employees that either refuse to return to work or are receiving pay through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Separately, guidance will be provided related to the Shared Work program and any continued waiver of employer account charges.

Waiting week for all new UI claims resumes. For those filing for unemployment in Missouri on or after July 5, 2020, a waiting week requirement will again be imposed. The waiting week is the first week of a claim for which the individual is eligible for unemployment benefits but during this week, the individual is not paid benefits. Those individuals who are approved for benefits may receive compensation for the waiting week as the last payment on the regular unemployment claim (*Missouri Department of*

Labor, Labor News, <https://labor.mo.gov/news/press-releases/missouri-reopens-unemployment-requirements-return>).