COVID-19 & Unemployment Insurance Benefits for Employers
Overview

• What is unemployment insurance?
• Who is eligible and for how much?
• Effect of COVID-19 on Iowa
• Will I be charged for benefits paid?
• Resources Available
Unemployment Insurance

• The intent of unemployment insurance is to pay benefits to eligible claimants during periods of unemployment when suitable work is not available.

• Unemployment Insurance is a tax paid entirely by employers who are covered by the Iowa Employment Security Law.
Who is Eligible?

Unemployment Insurance is not based on need; it provides temporary benefits if a worker is:

- Unemployed or working reduced hours through no fault of their own
- Able to work and available for work
- Actively looking for work (unless this requirement is waived)
How much is my employee eligible for?

- The minimum weekly benefit amount is $87 and the maximum weekly benefit amount is $591.

- The weekly payment depends on the wages your employee was paid during prior quarters of the year and the number of dependents they have.
Reduction in Hours or Layoffs due to COVID-19

• Iowa Workforce Development encourages employers to provide paid leave to employees unable to work as a result of COVID-19

• Voluntary Shared Work Program
  • Use as an alternative to layoffs
  • Work reductions are shared and employees receive partial payment for UI
  • Maintain productivity
Voluntary Shared Work (VSW)

• Additional information is available online: https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/voluntary-shared-work-program
COVID-19/ Coronavirus

• All claimants that file as a result of COVID-19 will be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. This includes claimants filing due to:
  • Caring for a family member
  • Loss of childcare/school closures
  • Employer shut down
  • Need for employee to self-quarantine
  • Employee contracts COVID-19 and is unable to work
COVID-19/ Coronavirus

- The work search requirement is waived for these claimants
- Notify employee when filing a claim for unemployment, they must select in the application the following option:

  “You are filing due to a temporary layoff as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)”
UI Benefit Employer Charges

- Relief of Charges
  - All claims filed as a result of COVID-19 will have benefit charges removed from the claim
  - If you do receive charges for a COVID-19 claim, contact IWD
Resources Available

• Website with COVID-19 information
Resources Available

• Online Employer Handbook

https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/employer-handbook
Contact Information

• For questions regarding unemployment insurance claims, call customer service at:

1-866-239-0843  uiclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov