



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?

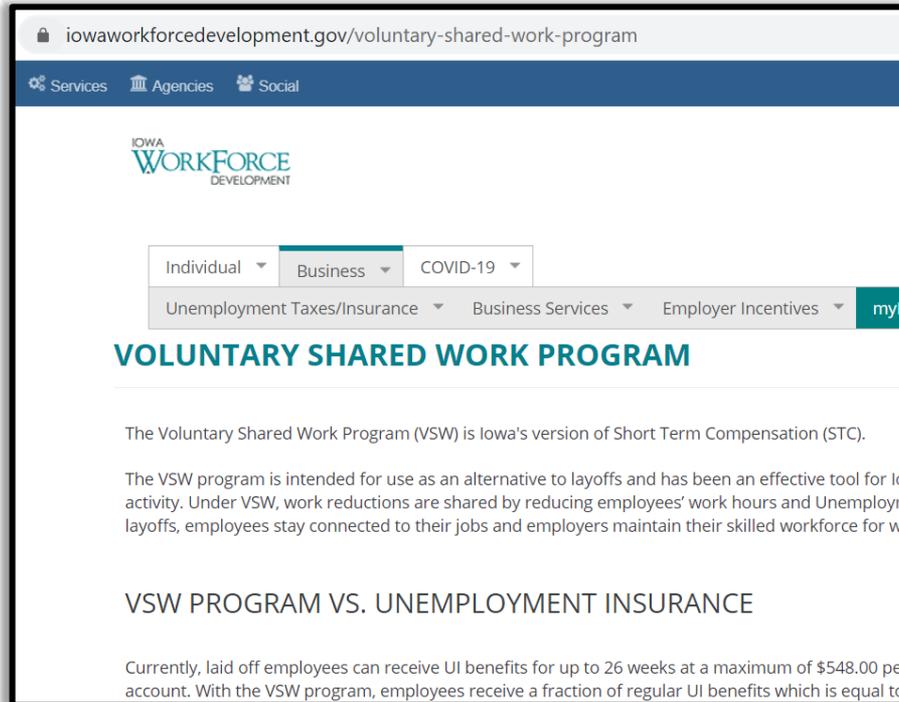
- The minimum weekly benefit amount is \$87 and the maximum weekly benefit amount is \$591.
- The weekly payment depends on the wages your employee was paid during prior quarters of the year and the number of dependents they have.

Reduction in Hours or Layoffs due to COVID-19

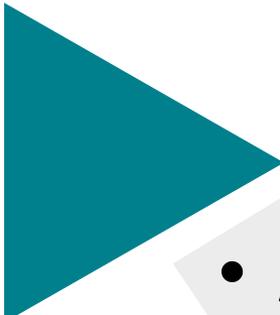
- Iowa Workforce Development encourages employers to provide paid leave to employees unable to work as a result of COVID-19
- Voluntary Shared Work Program
 - Use as an alternative to layoffs
 - Work reductions are shared and employees receive partial payment for UI
 - Maintain productivity

Voluntary Shared Work (VSW)

- Additional information is available online:
<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/voluntary-shared-work-program>

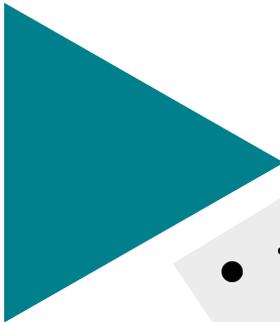


The screenshot displays the Iowa Workforce Development website page for the Voluntary Shared Work Program. The browser address bar shows the URL: [iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/voluntary-shared-work-program](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/voluntary-shared-work-program). The website header includes navigation links for Services, Agencies, and Social. The Iowa Workforce Development logo is prominently displayed. Below the logo, there are several dropdown menus for navigation: Individual, Business (selected), COVID-19, Unemployment Taxes/Insurance, Business Services, Employer Incentives, and myIOWA. The main heading of the page is "VOLUNTARY SHARED WORK PROGRAM". The introductory text states: "The Voluntary Shared Work Program (VSW) is Iowa's version of Short Term Compensation (STC). The VSW program is intended for use as an alternative to layoffs and has been an effective tool for Iowa's workforce during periods of economic activity. Under VSW, work reductions are shared by reducing employees' work hours and Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. During VSW periods, employees stay connected to their jobs and employers maintain their skilled workforce for when the economy recovers." Below this, a section titled "VSW PROGRAM VS. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE" provides a comparison: "Currently, laid off employees can receive UI benefits for up to 26 weeks at a maximum of \$548.00 per week. With the VSW program, employees receive a fraction of regular UI benefits which is equal to..."



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)”

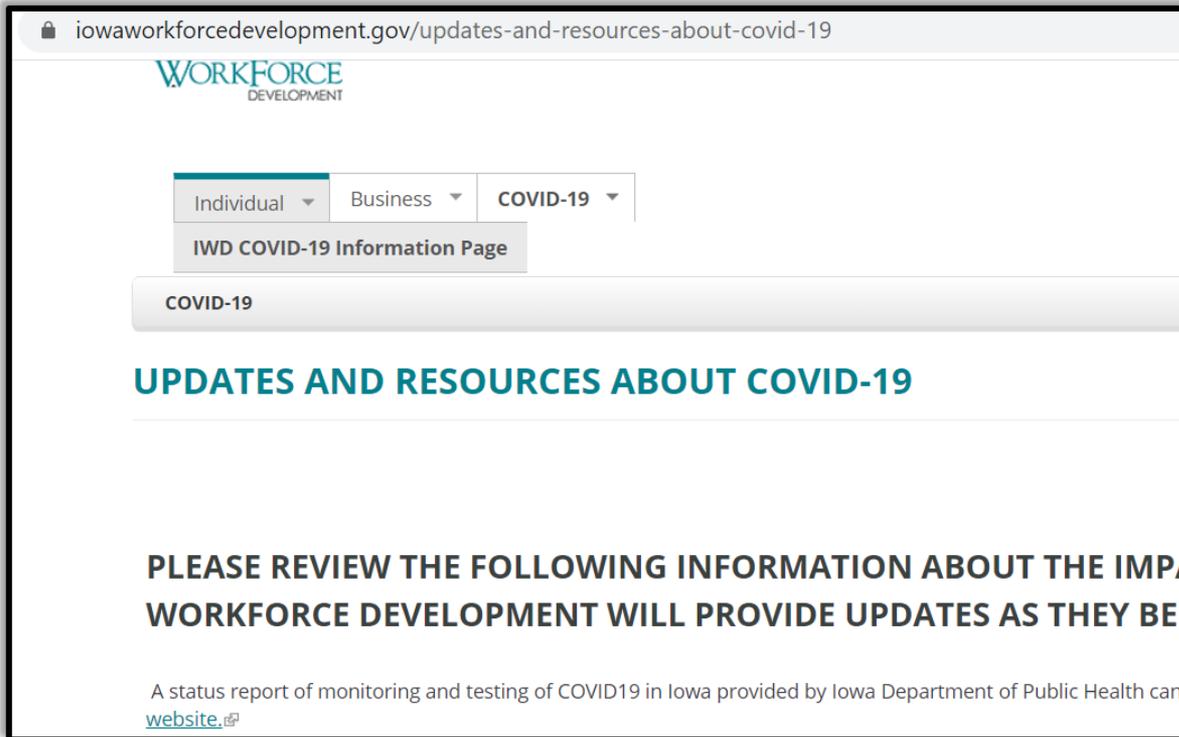
UI Benefit Employer Charges

- 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

<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/updates-and-resources-about-covid-19>

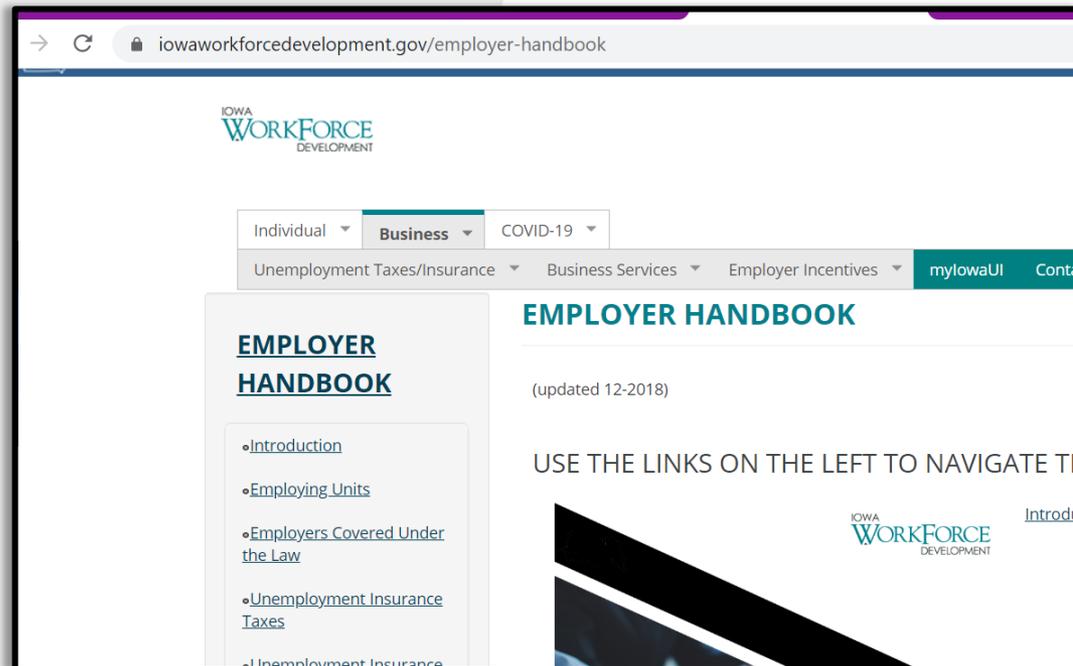


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/updates-and-resources-about-covid-19](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/updates-and-resources-about-covid-19). The page features the Workforce Development logo at the top. Below the logo are three navigation tabs: "Individual", "Business", and "COVID-19". The "COVID-19" tab is selected, and a dropdown menu is open showing "IWD COVID-19 Information Page". Below the navigation is a "COVID-19" section header. The main content area displays the heading "UPDATES AND RESOURCES ABOUT COVID-19" in teal. Below this, there is a bolded text block: "PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19. IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WILL PROVIDE UPDATES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE." At the bottom, there is a link to a status report: "A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID19 in Iowa provided by Iowa Department of Public Health can be found on the [website](#)." The website logo is also present at the bottom left.

Resources Available

- Online Employer Handbook

<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/employer-handbook>



Contact Information

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



OR



1-866-239-0843

uiclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov