



## COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR JOB SEEKERS

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (COVID-19) has been identified. The situation is rapidly evolving and local and state public health officials are working to determine policy and share information as it becomes available.

The CareerPoint service system and the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay is closely monitoring the situation and will provide information regarding services to individuals as they become available. At this time, the centers remain open. The center's are however, taking extra precautions to ensure the health and safety of staff and participants during this time and some services, such as workshops, may be limited. Please check our website for additional information on events and services at [www.CareerPointNorthBay.org](http://www.CareerPointNorthBay.org);

### County Resources

Public Health systems in our four counties are taking steps to protect the health of our community members by providing guidance that will slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, reduce the number of people infected and, most especially, protect those who are most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 illnesses. Information for each of the four counties can be found at their respective websites:

Napa <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2739/Coronavirus>

Marin <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/>

Mendocino <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus>

Lake <http://health.co.lake.ca.us/>

### California Protections and Resources

There are a number of protections and resources available to job seekers and workers through the California Employment Development Department (EDD) that can be found at: [https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm). Please review the following frequently asked questions below:



## Disability or Paid Family Leave Benefits

### 1. What benefits are available if I'm sick and can't work?

If you're unable to work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19 and if you have the necessary supporting medical documentation (see question #2), you are encouraged to [file a Disability Insurance \(DI\) claim](#). DI provides short-term benefit payments to eligible workers who have a full or partial loss of wages due to a non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy. Most California workers are covered by DI through deductions from their paychecks (noted as "CASDI" on most paystubs).

The [Governor's Executive Order](#) waives the one-week unpaid waiting period, so you can collect DI benefits for the first week you are out of work. If you are eligible, the EDD processes and issues payments within a few weeks of receiving a claim.

### 2. What kind of medical documentation is required to support a claim for Disability Insurance benefits?

To be eligible for Disability Insurance (DI) benefits, you must submit certain medical documentation. This requirement can be met by a medical certification signed by a treating physician or a practitioner that includes a diagnosis and ICD-10 code, or if no diagnosis has been obtained, a statement of symptoms; the start date of the condition; its probable duration; and the treating physician's or practitioner's license number or facility information. This requirement can also be met by a written order from a state or local health officer that is specific to you.

For fastest processing of your claim, [submit your claim online](#) and have your supporting medical documentation submitted online immediately after.

### 3. Can I qualify for disability benefits if I'm quarantined?

Yes, if your quarantine is certified by a medical professional or a state or local health officer. If you are not found eligible for DI, you are encouraged to apply for an Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim.

### 4. Are there are benefits available to me if I'm sick and I'm self-employed or otherwise not covered by the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program?

You may be eligible for benefits if you pay into Disability Insurance Elective Coverage (DIEC). DIEC is an option for self-employed individuals (such as independent contractors) and employers to apply for coverage under SDI. That includes school district and state employees who are exempt



from SDI, but can negotiate to participate in the DIEC. For more information, see the Information Sheet: [Elective Coverage for Employers and Self-Employed Individuals \(DE 231EC\) \(PDF\)](#).

**5. What benefits are available if a family member is sick and I have to miss work to care for that person?**

If you're unable to work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, you are encouraged to [file a Paid Family Leave \(PFL\) claim](#). PFL provides up to six weeks, this extends to eight weeks starting July 1, 2020, of benefit payments to [eligible workers](#) who have a full or partial loss of wages because they need time off work to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a new child. For the purposes of PFL coverage, a family member is defined as seriously ill child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or registered domestic partner.

**6. What kind of medical documentation is required to support a claim for PFL benefits?**

To be eligible for PFL benefits, you must submit certain medical documentation regarding the family member in your care who is either ill or quarantined due to COVID-19. This requirement can be met by a medical certification for that person from a treating physician or a practitioner that includes a diagnosis and ICD-10 code, or if no diagnosis has been obtained, a statement of symptoms; the start date of the condition; its probable duration; and the treating physician's or practitioner's license number or facility information. This requirement can also be met by a written order from a state or local health officer that is specific to your family member's situation. Absent those documents from a physician or health officer, you may be eligible for an Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim instead.

For fastest processing of your claim, [submit your claim online](#) and have the supporting medical documentation submitted online immediately after.

### Unemployment Insurance Benefits

**7. What benefits are available if I am subject to quarantine, am not ill, and am not found eligible for a Disability Insurance claim?**

You are encouraged to apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits if you are unemployed, which includes reasons such as:

- Your hours are reduced due to the quarantine.
- You were separated from your employer during the quarantine.
- You are subject to a quarantine required by a medical professional or state or local health officer.



You can be eligible for benefits if you have enough earnings over the past 12-18 months and meet other [eligibility criteria](#). The [Governor's Executive Order](#) waives the one-week unpaid waiting period, so you can collect UI benefits for the first week you are out of work. If you are eligible, the EDD processes and issues payments within a few weeks of receiving a claim.

EDD representatives may need to set up a phone interview with you to collect more details.

- If you are temporarily out of work and plan to return to the same employer, you do not need to meet the usual requirement of looking for work while you are collecting unemployment benefits. The EDD will inform you if you are not required to look for work each week.
- If you are not connected to a certain employer with a job to return to, you are required to look for work while collecting benefits. The EDD will inform you if you are required to look for work each week.

**8. Would I qualify for benefits if I choose to stay home from work due to underlying health conditions and concerns about exposure to the virus?**

You could be eligible for unemployment benefits. Our EDD representatives will seek details from you to determine eligibility based on the reason you are unemployed and the reason for restricting your availability to work. You may be required to actively seek work each week to show that you are still making yourself available for work.

**9. Would I qualify for benefits if my child's school shuts down and I have to miss work to care for that child who is not ill?**

You may be eligible for unemployment benefits. Our EDD representatives will determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis by scheduling a phone interview with you. For example, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits if your employer has temporarily allowed you to work less than full-time hours due to your child care situation. In such case, you may be eligible for reduced benefits based on the amount of your weekly earnings, as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements. The EDD will contact you and your employer for information to determine your eligibility.

**10. Can I collect benefits if my child's school shuts down and I have to stay home to care for my child if I'm not currently employed or I had to quit work because of my child care needs?**

You may be eligible for unemployment benefits. Our EDD representatives will determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis by scheduling a phone interview with you.



**11. Are benefits available if my employer reduces my hours or shuts down operations due to impacts of the coronavirus?**

If your employer reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you are encouraged to [file an Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) claim](#). UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own. Workers who are temporarily unemployed due to COVID-19 and expected to return to work with their employer within a few weeks are not required to actively seek work each week. However, they must remain able, available, and ready to work during their unemployment for each week of benefits claimed and meet all other eligibility criteria.

**12. Can I still collect unemployment benefits if I am able to work remotely from home?**

Working your full normal hours remotely would not qualify you for benefits. However, you could collect some Unemployment Insurance benefits if your usual number of work hours are reduced through no fault of your own.

**13. Can I collect disability and unemployment benefits at the same time?**

You have the right to apply and file a claim for unemployment and disability benefits at the same time, but you can only collect payments under one benefit program at a time. You're encouraged to file a claim under one program based on your circumstances or file under both programs if you are unsure of which program is most appropriate. The EDD will review the facts and determine your eligibility for the appropriate program.