



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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An important part of unemployment insurance is to become re-employed by actively searching for a job. In March 2020, Massachusetts temporarily suspended work-search requirements for claimants following updated federal guidance at the outset of the pandemic. Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that work search requirements will be reinstated for all regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants effective the week of June 15, 2021. This requirement applies to UI claimants receiving regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and those on Extended Benefits (EB).

The Commonwealth is set to lift all COVID-19 restrictions and complete the reopening process on May 29, 2021. The statewide COVID-19 state of emergency will terminate on June 15, 2021. With more than 200,000 jobs at Massachusetts employers advertised in the MassHire JobQuest portal, UI claimants are encouraged to learn more about finding employment opportunities through tools like the [MassHire Career Centers](#).

Beginning with the benefit week of June 13, 2021 through June 19, 2021, UI claimants must attest each week that they are making at least three work-search activities per week and provide proof of work search activity to the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), if requested. These requirements will be necessary to maintain eligibility for UI benefits. Examples of valid work-search activities include, but are not limited to:

- Completing a job application in person or online with employers who reasonably may be expected to have an opening for suitable work.
- Registering for work and reemployment services with a [local MassHire Career Center](#)
- Using other job search activities, such as reviewing job listings on the internet, newspapers or professional journals, contacting

professional associations, and networking with colleagues or friends.

- Additional examples of work search activities can be found [here](#).

Under the work search requirements, claimants will need to keep a [detailed written log of their work search activities](#). Claimants may also be called upon to attend a MassHire Career Center related activity and may be required to bring their work search activity logs. Claimants may also be asked to provide their work search information to DUA upon request and must keep proof of their work search documents for 1 year after they stop requesting benefits. Claimants should not mail work search logs to DUA unless requested.

Additional information and guides detailing how to complete work search requirements will be released in the coming weeks.

Effective the week of June 15, regular UI claimants will not be able to cite COVID-19 related reasons to waive work search requirements and must accept suitable employment, if offered. Claimants who refuse work because they would rather collect more money in unemployment benefits will be disqualified from UI and may also be subject to a fault/fraud finding. Employers may report any furloughed employees who refuse to come back to work, which may result in the claimant's benefits not being paid. Most claimants will be able to [continue to receive partial or reduced UI benefits](#) - and the full amount of the special COVID-19 related \$300 weekly stipend offered through the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program - even as they return to employment. Claimants who report wages from new employment will have their regular UI weekly benefit proportionately reduced to offset new wages, and in many circumstances claimants will remain eligible for the \$300 weekly stipend until their regular wages exceed 133 percent of their regular weekly benefit amount (calculated without including the \$300 weekly stipend). The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program will end in the first week in September.

Claimants who need assistance looking for their next job are encouraged to contact their local MassHire Career Center. MassHire Career Centers offer unemployed workers a wide array of reemployment services and tools that will assist them in preparing for their next employment opportunity. Claimants can contact a MassHire Career Center nearest them by visiting the MassHire Career Center website or calling their local MassHire Career Center. Claimants can locate a MassHire Career Center near their home by using the MassHire Career Center locator [here](#). More

than 200,000 jobs at Massachusetts employers are advertised in the MassHire JobQuest. Click [here](#) to look for jobs.