COVID-19: Emergency Resources for Workers

For up to the minute updates from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, please follow us on our social channels: 

All In Illinois
Join Governor JB Pritzker and famous Illinoisans and Illinois natives by taking the pledge here Allin.Illinois.gov.

Has your employment been impacted by COVID-19? Has your Employer closed its doors because of COVID-19? If so, the following is a resource aimed to help you with next steps...

p2 - DCEO Employment & Training Services
p2 - Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Unemployment Insurance (UI) Information
p2 - Paid Sick Leave and FMLA Expansion

Stay up-to-date on all things Illinois COVID-19
Protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of Illinoisans is Governor Pritzker’s top priority. The administration continues to work closely with local health departments, county officials and federal partners to put systems in place to respond to COVID-19. For a comprehensive list of resources available statewide please refer to Governor Pritzker’s COVID-19 resources website.
DCEO Employment & Training Services
Provides workforce skills training to assist workers and companies. Resources include job training, job search and more. [Click here to learn more.]

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Unemployment Insurance (UI) Information
[Click here for IDES COVID-19 unemployment benefits.]
IDES has assembled FAQs about Unemployment Insurance and the COVID emergency
• Workers laid off due to COVID qualify for UI so long as they are prepared to return to work.
• Workers sent home due to COVID illness or quarantine, or are caring for an affected family member, are also eligible for UI coverage.
• IDES is waiving the standard 1 week wait to be eligible for UI coverage.
  Link:  https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx
• The CARES Act expanded UI benefits to cover up to 39 weeks of assistance and include an additional $600 a week for up to four months.
• 1099 independent contractors now qualify for the unemployment under IDES. Contractors are eligible to receive 39 weeks of benefits. The goal is that the IDES will have the application will be live the week of March 11th and applicants will be eligible for back pay up to January 27th.

Paid Sick Leave and FMLA Expansion
The Families First Coronavirus Response Act requires most companies and nonprofits under 500 employees to provide extended family and medical leave benefits and up to two weeks of paid sick leave to their employees for COVID-19 related reasons. Generally,
• Two weeks of paid sick leave is available to all employees until December 31, 2020. For employees that are unable to work because they are quarantined or experiencing COVID symptoms and seeking medical diagnosis, they should receive their regular rate of pay. For employees who are unable to work because they are caring for an individual subject to quarantine or a child whose school or childcare closed, they should receive 2/3 of regular pay.
• Extends Family and Medical Leave benefits, adding up to 10 weeks of paid leave, to employees of companies with fewer than 500 workers if caring for a child whose school or day care has closed. The pay is at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay. This FMLA extension is available until December 31, 2020.
• Employers will pay up-front but will receive tax credits to recover the costs. Companies under 50 employees may apply for an exemption to provide leave due to school closings or childcare unavailability if it jeopardizes the viability of the business.

Where can I find more information?
• DOL released temporary ruled on April 1st for implementation of the paid leave requirements.
• DOL offers additional guidance, fact sheets, FAQs and a webinar on its website for paid leave. Interested individuals and employers should reference this site for guidance.

Is your Business affected by the “Stay at Home Executive Order”?
Not sure if you are an Essential Business?
[Review this essential check list for more information:]
  Link:  https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Documents/Essential%20Business%20FAQ.pdf