

Unemployment Insurance & Tax Filings - Coronavirus (COVID-19) 3.18.2020 UPDATE

It goes without saying that we are living in unusual and difficult times. Over the last few days, I have heard from and spoken with many of you regarding resources available to assist with financial pressures. Below are several resources that I encourage you to share with friends, family, and loved ones throughout California.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS:

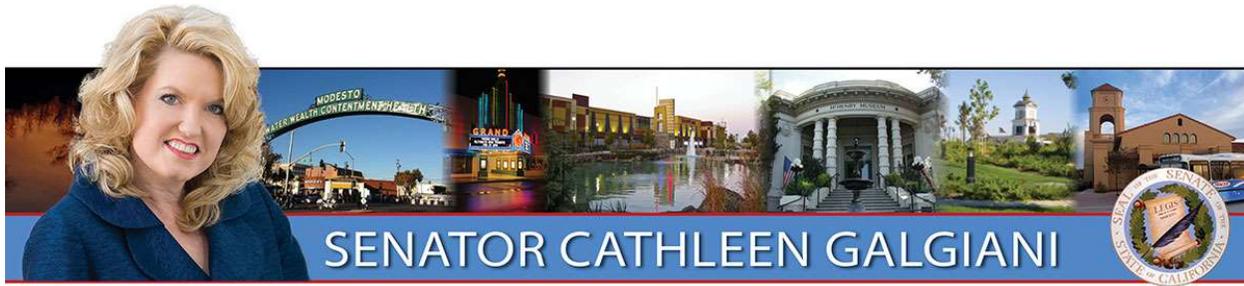
The State of California has extended and increased Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits because of reduced hours or closed operations due to COVID-19. UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own (including because of COVID-19). Eligible individuals can receive benefits that range from \$40-\$450 per week.

- Governor Newsom's recent Executive Order waived the one-week unpaid waiting period. This means that, if you will be filing to collect UI benefits, you will be eligible for the first week that you are out of work or have reduced hours.
- Though not full wage-replacement, depending on your income level, UI benefits will recognize 60-70% of your wages.
- If you are eligible for UI benefits, the EDD processes and issues payments within a few weeks of receiving a claim.
- Please visit the EDD's "How to File an Unemployment Insurance Benefits Claim" website by clicking [HERE](#).

I understand that eligibility for benefits may be confusing at times and even more so during the current pandemic. As such, I encourage you to monitor closely the resources at [THIS WEBSITE](#), which includes a very helpful graphic about the various State benefit programs. This includes utilization of California programs like Paid Sick Leave, Paid Time Off, Disability Insurance, and the like.

FILING YOUR TAXES: The State of California has given taxpayers more time to file state income tax returns and to pay any taxes owed.

- Individual taxpayers will have until **June 15th** to file their returns and pay any taxes owed.



- Those who have quarterly estimated payments due on April 15th will now have until **June 15th** to make those payments.
- Any taxpayer filing under this special deadline relief should note the name of the state emergency (e.g., "COVID-19" or "Coronavirus") in black ink on the top of the tax return to inform FTB that you are filing under the special extension period. The FTB also will waive interest and any late filing or late payment penalties that otherwise would apply.
- Employers experiencing a hardship as a result of COVID-19 may request up to a 60-day extension of time from the EDD to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. A written request for extension must be received within 60 days from the original delinquent date of the payment or return.
- Should you have other questions or should you need assistance, please visit the FTB's website by clicking [HERE](#).

For assistance, visit the FTB's website at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Please note that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has not yet acted on extending the April 15th filing deadline for federal income tax returns.

This situation is fluid, so I will continue to provide you with resources as they become available. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to our healthcare providers, first responders, emergency response teams, school officials, non-profits, and local elected officials who are working around-the-clock to keep our community safe. Your leadership and guidance during this time is appreciated.

Sincerely,

State Senator, District 5