

TEAMMATE SERVICES

WHAT: Virginia – Filing an unemployment claim

WHEN: May 18, 2020

WHO: Teammates in Virginia

The Virginia Employment Commission operates the state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. UI benefits are not only for those individuals who unfortunately find themselves without work, the program also covers workers whose hours have been reduced for business reasons. If your hours have been reduced and you are struggling financially to keep up with expenses, please explore the option of applying for partial UI benefits.

- *Beginning with claims effective March 15, 2020, Governor Northam has directed that the one week waiting period and the requirement to conduct a weekly job search both be suspended for those receiving unemployment insurance benefits.*
- *Currently, the online claim filing system is operational but not sending confirmation numbers. Claims are being received and we are working on fixing the problem*

What you need to apply:

- Social security number
- Current mailing address
- Legal name, as it appears on your Social Security Card.
- Your employment history for the last 18 months, including employer names, addresses, and phone numbers, dates of employment, and reason for separation

How to apply:

An individual may apply for benefits online or over the phone.

<https://www.vawc.virginia.gov/>

File a New Claim for UI Benefits by Telephone:

- Call 1-866-832-2363
- Available 8:15am to 4:30pm, Monday - Friday, and Saturday between 9am and 1pm (closed Sunday and state holidays).
- *Call volume in our contact centers is exceedingly high. You may experience difficulty getting through and wait times will be exceptionally long.*
- *If you are filing an initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits, please do so by using the **Online Claims** section above.*

It is your responsibility to file your weekly continued claim on time, each week, while you are receiving benefits.

- Online at <https://www.vawc.virginia.gov/>
- By phone at 1-800-897-5630

Benefit payments for Unemployment Insurance made using a Debit Card or Direct Deposit.

Resources:

Step by Step guide to filing an unemployment claim

http://trainingvideos.geosolinc.com/UI/Initial_Claim_Filing_Virginia_Final/Initial_Claim_Filing_Virginia_Final.mp4

FAQs regarding Unemployment Claims:

<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/unemployed/Claimant-Handbook/Claimant-Handbook/Applying-for-Benefits>

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Frequently-Asked-Questions-from-Workers-Regarding-COVID-19.pdf>