

Client Training HQ

Claimant Work Search Waiver Information

Note: The Work Search Waiver information that appears below reflects information available from individual state sources as of June 2026. For more information, navigate to the specific state's UI website, or reach out to your UC Service Team.

What are the claimant's requirements for unemployment benefits?

Being able to, available for, and actively seeking work are foundational principals of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. While a claimant's weekly requirements related to actively seeking work vary widely by state, they do exist in some capacity within each.

Many states, however, provide for these requirements to be **waived** during brief periods of unemployment brought on by a temporary lack of work/layoff. Among many benefits to employers, a waiver may mitigate the risk associated with workers "actively seeking," and subsequently accepting, new work during a short, defined furlough period.

When will a waiver be considered?

For a waiver to be considered, it is typically imperative that a definitive **Return to Work (RTW)** date be known at the time of the layoff.

What is a definitive Return To Work (RTW) date?

A RTW date of "sometime in the fall" or "when business picks up soon" is not a definitive RTW date. When applicable, both the Last Day of Work (LDW) and the RTW date should be made available to an impacted worker so they can input them when filing for a UI claim.

Should I alert Equifax® about waivers and RTW dates?

Yes! Those dates should also be provided to your UC Service Team as soon as possible for inclusion in our claim response, which will help as verification to the claimant's statement.

Below is a guide to help you better understand the state-specific nuances.

State	Waiver? Yes or No	Maximum Duration	Initiation Process / Employer Responsibility
AL	Yes	Returning to work within 13 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response containing a RTW date.
AK	Yes	Returning to full-time work within 90 days after the date the claimant files the initial claim.	Initiated by the claimant during the claim filing process by providing the RTW date. The claimant will then be asked to provide: employer's name, an employer contact name and title, and employer's phone number.

State	Waiver? Yes or No	Maximum Duration	Initiation Process / Employer Responsibility
AZ	No		
AR	Yes	Returning to full-time work within 10 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant during the claim filing process. A written confirmation is required from the employer. This can be via a claim response with return to work date or via a single letter with a list of employees.
CA	Yes	Returning to work within 30 days.	Initiated by the claimant during the claim filing process. If claimant does not provide a RTW date, but the employer does via a claim response, a waiver will be granted.
CO	Yes	Returning to work within 16 weeks. Must be job-attached to an employer or job-attached via a union.	Initiated by the claimant during the claim filing process. The employer verifies it via the response to the claim or form B-432 (Request for Job-Attached Status).
CT	Yes	Work search will be waived if the claimant has a definite RTW date with a new employer within 13 weeks OR a definite RTW date with a previous employer in 13 weeks or less.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim and providing a RTW date.
DE	Yes	Returning to work within 45 calendar days. The period is extended to 63 calendar days if closure is related to annual model changes or retooling.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date.
DC	No		
FL	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks.	Initiated by claimant when filing the claim and providing a RTW date.
GA	Yes	Returning to work within 6 weeks from the date of the separation.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response containing RTW date.
HI	Yes	Returning to work within 6 weeks.	Not available.
ID	Yes	Claimants who are attached to an employer, an industry, or a union are exempt from work search not to exceed 16 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant by providing the RTW date when filing. Employers can provide a listing of impacted associates in advance of the layoff, but the claimant is still required to provide the RTW date when filing.
IL	Yes	A temporary lay-off not exceeding 10 weeks in duration.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response with a RTW date.
IN	Yes	Returning to work within 60 days of the separation.	The claimant enters a RTW date when filing the claim which automatically triggers the waiver (if within 60 days).
IA	Yes	Returning to work within 4 consecutive weeks (per Administrative Rule).	The process is initiated by either the claimant when filing and providing the RTW date or by the employer when responding to a Request for Information and providing a RTW date.
KS	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response.
KY	Yes	Temporary layoff with a definite recall date within 16 weeks of the initial claim filing date.	Note: Claimants will be required to provide documentation from the employer with the RTW date. Failure to provide documentation will result in being subject to work search requirements.
LA	Yes	Returning to work within 6 weeks of layoff date.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response with a RTW date.

State	Waiver? Yes or No	Maximum Duration	Initiation Process / Employer Responsibility
ME	Yes	Returning within 6 weeks of the layoff date. The maximum 6 weeks of waiver per benefit year. An extension beyond 6 weeks can be requested by the employer for extenuating circumstances such as closure due to flood, fire, or remodel.	If within 6 weeks, the process is initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response. Requests for waivers longer than 6 weeks must be initiated by the employer and are coordinated through the UI agency.
MD	Yes	Laid off for 10 weeks or less and have a definite RTW date.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response with a RTW date.
MA	Yes	Returning to work within 4 weeks of the date the claimant is requesting benefits.	Both the claimant and the employer can initiate the waiver through the normal claim filing/responding process.
MI	Yes	Returning to work within 15 days of the date the claimant is requesting benefits.	Both the claimant and the employer can initiate the waiver through the normal claim filing/responding process. The first 15 days are automatic when a RTW date is provided by both parties. The employer can request an extension, not exceed 45 days, through their MiWAM account.
MN	Yes	Returning to work within 45 days of the date the claimant is requesting benefits.	Both the claimant and employer can initiate the waiver through the normal claim filing/responding process.
MS	Yes	Temporary layoff of less than 4 weeks.	Both the claimant and employer can initiate the waiver through the normal claim filing/responding process.
MO	Yes	Returning within 8 weeks. Can be extended to 16 weeks if requested by the employer.	If returning within 8 weeks, the process is initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. For layoffs lasting between 8-16 weeks, employers must complete the online Work Search Waiver form at https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov/benefits/home.do at least 2 weeks prior to the layoff.
MT	Yes	No statutory/regulatory maximum. It is determined case by case not to exceed the current benefit year.	The process is initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. The employer will then verify the information during the investigation process. The employer can approve/reject the job attached status.
NE	Yes	Returning within 16 weeks (112 days) of layoff date.	Initiated by the claimant during the claim filing process. The LDW and RTW entered by the claimant must match that provided by the employer via a spreadsheet or individual claim responses. When entering the first day of work, claimants returning from layoff should provide the most recent RTW date as the first day of work - not the original DOH.
NV	Yes	Returning within 4 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing their claim (either online or on the phone). If the employer/TPA is making the request for a group of employees, that must be approved by our Unemployment Insurance Support Services group.
NH	Yes	Returning within 4 weeks if not seasonal / 16 weeks if seasonal.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim.
NJ	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing his/her claim. Claimants can answer "no" on their weekly pay certification to the "are you actively seeking work" question.
NM	Yes	Returning to work within 4 weeks.	The agency prefers a list of laid off associates with LDW and RTW date ahead of the layoff, but the process can be initiated by the claimant when filing and providing a RTW date. The employer verifies the information via the claim response.
NY	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks.	Waiver is automatically granted if the RTW date provided by the claimant when filing and by the employer via the claim response is not more than 8 weeks from the LDW.

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NC	No	Not defined.	ONLY applies to individuals in Commissioned Approved Training (normally WIOA and TAA) and those filing for UI as a direct result of a declared disaster. No other times are waivers granted. The claimant nor employer would request a waiver; it is initiated by either a caseworker at the Career Center or by a staff person with the agency.
ND	Yes	Not defined (short-term only).	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim and verified by the employer. Verification by the employer can occur via a spreadsheet or individual claim responses with LDW and RTW dates.
OH	Yes	Returning to work within 45 days.	Initiated by the claimant. It must be verified by the employer within 10 days of the layoff. The verification can be satisfied via a response to the claim that includes a RTW date.
OK	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim by providing a RTW date. The information is verified by the employer via a claim response containing a RTW date.
OR	Yes	Returning to work within 4 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. If a claimant was not employed full-time and is not returning to full-time work, they may not meet the requirements for a waiver.
PA	Yes	Not defined.	PA refers to this as an "exemption." The process is initiated by the claimant when filing. Employers are encouraged to provide claimants with a written document that includes that actual RTW date. When the claimant completes the online application, they can say "Yes, I have a return to work date and it is in writing." This will give the claimant an exemption.
PR	No		
RI	Yes	Returning to work within 12 weeks.	Initiated by the employer when RTW date within 12 weeks is provided by the employer in the claim response.
SC	Yes	Returning to work within 6 weeks.	A waiver is only applicable if the employer files claims on behalf of temporarily furloughed employees for a maximum duration of 6 weeks.
SD	Yes	Returning to work within 10 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. A Recall Verification Notice is then automatically sent to the employer. An agency-specific spreadsheet is available for employers who wish to utilize it. If received prior to the claim filing, the Recall Verification Notices can be avoided.
TN	Yes	Returning to work within 10 weeks.	A spreadsheet from the employer must be provided to the agency prior to the LDW.
TX	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks. It can be extended to a maximum of 12 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. If the RTW date is within 8 weeks, the waiver is automatically granted. If it is more than 8 weeks, but no more than 12, the claimant must request at the time of filing which will then be verified by the employer via the claim response. A request for a waiver exceeding 12 weeks can be made by the employer in writing to TWC, UI Operations & Customer Support, PO Box 149137, Austin, TX, 78714-9137. The request must include the name, SSN, location, LDW, RTW date, and reason for the layoff.
UT	Yes	Returning to work within 10 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim.

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VT	Yes	Returning to work within 10 weeks; the claimant is a member in good standing of a union; the claimant is filing as part of a Short Time Compensation (STC) Program; or the claimant is actively working with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in order to become employed.	Initiated by the claimant and verified by the employer via the claim response.
VI	Yes	Returning within 8 weeks.	The work search is triggered by a claim response from the employer noting temporary lack of work and a RTW date.
VA	Yes	Returning to work within 6 weeks if initiated during the claim filing processes or within 4 weeks if at another point in the claim series.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. The waiver will cease on the date provided by the claimant and cannot be extended should the employer have a change in circumstances.
WA	Yes	Claimants can request 4 weeks. Employers can request an additional 4 week extension or the maximum 8 weeks at the time of the claim filing. Maximum to not exceed 8 weeks.	Claimants can request "standby" through an agent at any point during their filing via phone or on their own online (eServices). When the claimant requests standby, the department will verify standby status through a letter that is sent to the employer. The employer can respond to this inquiry by confirming standby or providing additional information. The employer can also utilize the Request-For-Separation form to request standby for the claimant; there is a specific section on the form for this request.
WV	Yes	Returning to work within 3 weeks.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim and verified by the employer via the claim response.
WI	Yes	Returning to work within 8 weeks. It can be extended to a maximum of 12 weeks.	The 8 week waiver is initiated by the claimant when filing the claim and verified with the employer. For waiver requests between 8-12 weeks, the employer must call the Employer Assistance Line 414.438.7705.
WY	Yes	Returning to work within 12 weeks to the employer who paid at least 50% of the base period wages.	Initiated by the claimant when filing the claim. The employer must verify the information which can be done via the claim response. If the employer fails to verify the information, the waiver may be denied.

More Training is Available!

More UI state-specific resources and Unemployment Cost Management training is available on our [Connections](#) site.

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