

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 1199SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST MEMBERS EXPERIENCING LAYOFFS



*for members working in Massachusetts*

The current healthcare crisis and resulting stay at home orders are causing an extraordinary drain of resources on many clinics and other healthcare providers, which has precipitated sudden lay-offs of healthcare workers. **The Union will continue to advocate and ensure that these lay-offs are temporary and that the employers begin to recall members as soon as this crisis subsides and operations resume.**

**Your union fought for extended and additional unemployment benefits for all workers affected by the pandemic.** The benefit possibilities outlined below are newly available state and federal benefits that do not include and are in addition to the paid time off that you may have already earned and may be entitled to receive.

1199SEIU TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FUNDS

[1199seiubenefits.org/training-and-employment](https://1199seiubenefits.org/training-and-employment)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q I work at a hospital, nursing home, clinic or home care agency, and I'm being laid-off or furloughed (temporarily laid-off), what unemployment benefits am I eligible for?**

- » You are eligible for the regular 26 weeks of unemployment compensation, plus an additional 13 weeks through December 31, 2020.
- » You are also eligible for “enhanced benefits,” an additional \$600 per week, through July 31, 2020. Example: if your regular unemployment benefit would be \$300 per week, under the new expansion you will receive an additional \$600 of federal pandemic unemployment compensation, for a total of \$900 per week.
- » All waiting periods are eliminated during the crisis.

**Q Do I need to use all of my earned sick time before applying for unemployment insurance?**

- » No, if you are laid-off, experience a reduction of hours or are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance, you do not need to use your earned sick time before applying for unemployment insurance.

**Q If my hours are reduced, am I eligible for Unemployment Compensation?**

- » You might be. Follow the instructions on the next page related to lay-offs to determine your level of benefits from the unemployment compensation system.

**Q Are there services available that can help me find another job if I am unemployed?**

- » Yes. Please go to <https://www.1199seiubenefits.org/employment-center/> to upload your information.

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT?

### ● Apply Online

- » General Information: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-unemployment-benefits>
- » Online Application: <https://uionline.detma.org/Claimant/Core/Login.ASPX>
- » Detailed instructions on filling out the online application can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-unemployment-handbook-initial-claims-filed-on-or-after-march-15-2020/download>

### ● Apply by Phone (TeleClaims)

877) 626-6800	from area codes 351, 413, 508, 774, and 978
(617) 626-6800	from any other area code
711	Voice Relay

### ● Hours and Schedule

- » TeleClaim Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday- Friday
- » Due to high call volume, call times are restricted. Use the schedule below to know which day you should call.

Assigned day to call	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Last digit of your Social Security Number	0,1	2,3	4,5,6	7,8,9	Any

## WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

### **Q My facility or agency is short-staffed, what can the union do to help?**

- » The Union's Training and Employment Funds created an online portal for retired and out of work people to apply for work. If you have friends or family who want to work at an 1199SEIU facility, ask them to sign up here:  
<https://www.1199seiubenefits.org/employment-center/>
- » Workers are needed for most positions, including dietary, environmental service (cleaning), home health aides, certified nurse assistants, LPNs, RNs, respiratory therapists and others.

## OTHER

### **Q I am hearing that I might be getting a check from the federal government, is that true?**

- » Individual workers making less than \$75,000 will receive a check of \$1200. Married workers will receive a check of \$2400 if their combined income is less than \$150,000. Your Union fought for the CARES Act to make sure workers have income during this crisis.

### **Q Someone in my family works as an "independent contractor" or "freelancer" and they have not been eligible for unemployment compensation in the past, are they eligible?**

- » Unions fought for workers who are not normally covered by unemployment compensation to get benefits. The CARES Act provides emergency unemployment benefits from your state for up to 39 weeks. Your family and friends can apply through their state for unemployment benefits (see previous page).