



Important Notice: Update on Federal Unemployment Payments

As of Tuesday, December 29, 2020 this is what we know about when people will receive Federal unemployment payments under the new law passed by Congress and signed by the President on December 27th:

- **If you were *already receiving* Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) or Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits before December 27, 2020:** You should continue to file your weekly certification as usual. You will be able to make a claim for the week ending January 2nd and should be paid without additional delay. (Remember that this is a holiday week, so there may be the usual 1-2 day delay usually associated with holidays).

If you are eligible for either federal PUA or PEUC benefits you will also qualify for \$300 in additional federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) benefits. People eligible for regular state unemployment benefits will also qualify for the additional \$300 PUC payment. There may be some delay in receiving the additional \$300 PUC payment, but hopefully it will not be too long. When that additional \$300 PUC benefit becomes payable, you will receive it for all weeks you claimed after December 27th.

- **If you are *opening a new claim* for federal PUA or PEUC benefits after December 27th (meaning that you have not already been getting benefits under one of these programs):** You should file your weekly certification as soon as you become unemployed, and continue filing each week that you remain unemployed. You will be able to make a claim for benefits back to the week ending December 12th if you were unemployed at that time. There will be a delay before you begin getting PUA or PEUC benefits while Maine DOL waits for federal guidance. Again, we hope it will not be long.

You will also be eligible for the additional \$300 PUC benefit once that becomes payable. You will get all of these benefits retroactively once your claim has been processed.

Remember:

- **Make sure to continue filing your weekly certification.** If you don't file your weekly certification you may not be eligible to receive any type of unemployment benefit.
- **You must be out of work for a COVID-19-related reason to be eligible for PUA.** Here is a link that describes the qualifying COVID-19-related reasons:
<https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/docs/2020/pua2020/PandemicUnemploymentAssistanceProgramDOL.pdf>

- **You must search for work unless you are quarantined or actually sick with the coronavirus.**

We will update this information as we get new information. Check back here, or go to the Maine Department of Labor website at <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/>, for the most current information.