

NEW WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT FOR PEOPLE RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT

You are now required to provide information to the Maine Department of Labor about work search to receive unemployment benefits.

Here are some step-by-step instructions for how to meet the work search requirement:

When you open your weekly certification, you will see a work search questionnaire. Here is a copy of what you will see:

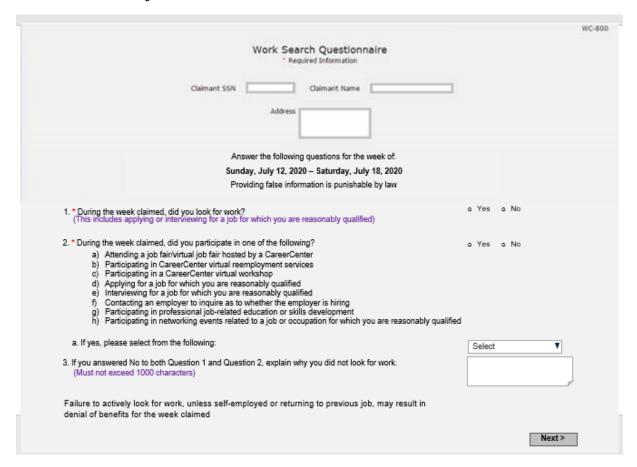


If you are self-employed or you expect to go back to work for your old employer, you do not have to perform a work search. Just check the appropriate box "yes."

If you answer "no" to these questions, you need to check on the button marked "next" in the lower right-hand corner of the screen



This is the screen you will see next:



Work search means that you applied or interviewed for a job <u>OR</u> you participated in one of the programs listed in section 2 of the screen.

For a list of the programs and to sign up for one of the programs listed in Section 2 of the screen go here:

https://www.mainecareercenter.com/employment/workshops.shtml.

If you do not use a computer, you can call the Career Center for help finding options to fulfill the work search requirements.



People Policy Solutions

If you did not do any of these activities during the week, you have to explain why in section 3 on the screen. You will need a significant COVID – 19 related reason, such as "I am sick with COVID-19".

WHAT IF I AM NOTIFIED THAT I DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT?

If you are receiving unemployment benefits and are told by the Department of Labor that you no longer qualify for benefits because you failed to comply with the work search requirement you will continue to receive benefits until a fact-finding conference. The fact-finding conference is held to decide if there were grounds for you not to perform a work search or accept a job.

WORK SEARCH DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

You can meet the work search requirement even if you are not able to accept a job due to COVID-19 related reasons. Here is a list of COVID-19 related reasons:

- My income from self-employment has decreased due to COVID-19;
- My workplace is closed as a direct result of COVID-19;
- I have been diagnosed with COVID-19 OR have symptoms and am trying to get a diagnosis;
- A member of my household is diagnosed with COVID-19;
- I'm caring for someone diagnosed with COVID-19;
- I'm providing care for a child or other household member whose school or day care or work is closed due to COVID-19;
- I am quarantined or have been told by a health care provider to self-quarantine;
- I was scheduled to start a new job but don't have a job now, or can't reach my workplace because of a COVID-19 outbreak;
- I've become the breadwinner for my household because the head of household has died as a direct result of COVID-19; OR
- I had to quit my job as a direct result of COVID.



People Policy Solutions

If you are afraid to accept employment because of concerns about COVID-19, please see Maine Equal Justice's <u>I don't feel safe going to work; can I still get</u>

<u>Unemployment?</u>

If you need legal assistance, please contact:

Maine Equal Justice: https://maineequaljustice.org/people/legal-assistance-contact/

(207) 626-7058, extension 205

Pine Tree Legal Assistance: https://ptla.org/contact-us

Maine Volunteer Lawyer's Project: https://www.vlp.org/contact-us