

Resource Guide & Legislative Actions for MRCC Members

FAQ sheet

As of March 23rd, 2020

Please note: Although our offices are temporarily closed, you can still reach your local union office or business agent by calling (888) HAMMER9 or (888) 426-6379.

1. How do I apply for Unemployment Benefits?

- Eligible employees are strongly encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits online at <https://tinyurl.com/ssp8uat> or by calling 866-500-0017.
- A factsheet on how to apply for benefits can also be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/ry3pzlv>

2. What are the Temporary Changes to Unemployment Benefits?

The governor's order extends access to benefits for unemployed workers:

- **Increased Weeks:** Benefits will be increased from 20 to 26 weeks.
- **Longer Application Time:** The application eligibility period will be increased from 14 to 28 days.
- **Fewer Requirements:** The in-person registration and work search requirements will be suspended.

For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/v3ncfgg>

3. Who is covered by this Unemployment Insurance expansion?

Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-10 actually expands unemployment benefits for:

- **Sick Workers**
- **Workers Caring for Loved Ones**
- **First Responders**

For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/std3hv5>

4. If I have a traditional Workers Compensation complaint to file, can I still file during this crisis?

- Yes, during the COVID-19 crisis, the Claims Department at the Workers' Disability Compensation Agency will accept claim forms submission via mail, fax and email at the following:

Fax number: 517-284-8920

Email: hazeld2@michigan.gov or fedewaj5@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Workers' Disability Compensation Agency
P.O. Box 30016
Lansing, MI 48909

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/w4s3xn4> Call: 888-396-5041 Email: wcinfo@michigan.gov

5. What other supportive services are available?

- **Michigan 2-1-1** is a free service that connects Michigan residents with help and answers from thousands of health and human services agencies and resources right in your community-quickly, easily, and confidentially. **Dial 211 for more information.**
- Individuals looking for an expanded list of food pantries can visit <https://tinyurl.com/qwb7lgd>

6. How long will we be off work?

- Governor Whitmer issued a **“Stay Home Stay Safe”-Executive Order 2020-21**; now in effect. Governor Whitmer’s order is in effect until April 13th 2020 @ 11:59pm. The situation will be evaluated at that time.
- For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/std3hv5>

7. Will Union meetings still occur?

All union meetings this month are cancelled through this executive order until April 13th. We’re taking this day by day and hope to be back to a normal schedule as soon as possible..

8. Is the Hall open?

- Halls have been ordered closed, per the Governor’s orders. Please note: Although our offices are temporarily closed, you can still reach your local union office or business agent by calling (888) HAMMER9

9. How can I pay dues?

You can pay dues online at hammer9.com and go to Login (<https://hammer9.com/user>). Credit card payments can be taken over the phone this Friday, March 27th & next Friday, April 3rd during regular business hours.

10. Who is considered an “Essential worker”?

- In the State of Michigan Health care and public health workers, Law enforcement, public safety and first responders, Food and agriculture, Energy, Water and wastewater, Transportation and logistics, Public works, Trash pick-up and disposal, Communications and information technology, including news media, Critical manufacturing, Hazardous materials, Financial services, Chemical supply chains and safety, and Defense industrial base are all considered essential workers.
- **For more information visit:** <https://tinyurl.com/std3hv5>

11. Can I still work if my job site is deemed essential?

- Yes, be safe out there. Follow the CDC guidelines: wash your hands as much as possible, avoid contact or standing close.

12. Why did Whitmer shut down the jobs?

- Governor Whitmer followed recommendations of the CDC to stop the spread of the virus. She’s listening to people who know best and she’s doing what she can to get us back to work as quickly and safely as she can.
- **For more information visit:** <https://tinyurl.com/std3hv5>

13. Shutting down jobs: Is this really necessary?

- Governor Whitmer has always been a voice for Labor. She’s trying to protect us and the state. We **support her** decision. At the end of the day profits can be regained, whereas humans lives can’t.
- **For more information visit:** <https://tinyurl.com/std3hv5>

14. When will jobs open?

- We don't know. The Shelter-in-Place Executive Order is for three weeks. As soon as we hear anything, we will reach out to members. Take care of yourself. Work will be there when this blows over and the union will be here to help.
- For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/std3hv5>

15. How do I get more updates about the Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

- Feel free to contact the **Hotline: 888-535-6136**, 7 days a week, 8am - 5pm or via email COVID19@michigan.gov (available 24 hours per day).
- You can Subscribe to the e-newsletter by entering your email at the newsletter request point at the bottom of the State's Coronavirus site: <https://tinyurl.com/rhe9tjb>

16. What if I don't feel safe on the job?

- Safety is personal and if you don't feel safe on the job, you have the right to make the call to go home. Make sure you contact your supervisor.

17. Can I use Family Medical Leave if I or someone in my family gets the coronavirus?

- Yes. Under certain conditions. Contact them through the information below
- For more information contact U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division at 1-866-487-9243 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/yx5jtyv8>

18. Any other questions: Please call the union office at (888) Hammer9 or (888) 426-6379.