

NAVIGATING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS & COVID-19 FOR BUSINESSES



- If it is necessary for your business to slow or cease operations due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and you expect to lay off employees, please contact us as soon as possible. Affected businesses may contact Tiffanie Goff, Southwest Virginia Works Programs Director at 304-575-3931 or t.goff@swvaworks.com to report a lay off and to get connected to resources for your business and your employees.
- The Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board's Business Services Teams have been activated to support your business through this crisis and stand ready to assist you. Additionally, if your business has been deemed essential and has been authorized to remain open, you may qualify for rapid response funding through the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board to help clean and sanitize your facility and support any emergency needs you may have. For more information about the Business Services Teams, contact Rachel Patton, Assistant Director/Director of Business Services at 276-608-1851 or r.patton@swvaworks.com.
- On March 17th, Governor Ralph Northam stated that an increase of workers filing for unemployment benefits because of lack of/reduction in work due to the coronavirus pandemic would not cause premiums for unemployment insurance to increase for businesses. Governor Northam also directed the Virginia Employment Commission to waive the one-week waiting period and work search requirements for workers that were filing for unemployment benefits due to the coronavirus pandemic. Workers will be able to access benefits shortly after their claims are filed and do not have to conduct weekly job search to continue receiving benefits. **We have attached an informational flyer for your employees regarding unemployment benefits.**

Resources:

Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board: <http://www.vcwsouthwest.com>

Virginia Employment Commission: <http://vec.virginia.gov>

Governor Ralph Northam's website: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov>

OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

Helpful Contacts:

Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board

Phone: 276-883-4034

Email: vcwsouthwest@swvaworks.com

Richlands Virginia Employment Commission

Glenda Carter, Manager

Phone: 276-963-2660

Email: glenda.carter@vec.virginia.gov

Norton Virginia Employment Commission

Chris Sanders, Manager

Phone: 276-679-9413

Email: christopher.sanders@vec.virginia.gov

Virginia Rapid Response

Beckie Cox, Regional Rapid Response Coordinator

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SOUTHWEST REGION

