



## Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

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## Resources for Workers Affected by COVID-19

Below is a list of updated links and information for workers in need that may be of help to you and your members. While certainly not exhaustive, the below may provide some necessary information.

### Filing for Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance helps workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced recover lost wages. An employee impacted by COVID-19 does not necessarily need to be completely let go from their job to be eligible for UI benefits. The UI benefits during this pandemic have been expanded to include some workers who are not traditionally eligible, such as the self-employed and part-time workers affected by COVID-19. Here are some updated resources about unemployment insurance:

- [COVID-19 and Wisconsin Unemployment Benefits: FAQ](#)
- [Which Unemployment Insurance Program Is For You? A flowchart guide from DWD.](#)
- [Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance: Video from DWD on how to apply for benefits](#)
- [Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance Program: File for benefits, information](#)
- [After you file for benefits, view and manage your unemployment claim information online here](#)
- [Information for the Public Including Unemployment and Employment and Training](#)

### Filing for Worker's Compensation

Working people have the right to worker's compensation benefits if they are injured or infected as a result of their work, including being infected by the Coronavirus. Here is a resource about filing for worker's compensation:

- [COVID-19 and Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Benefits: FAQ](#)

### COVID-19 Testing

Anyone who is experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been exposed to COVID-19 should be tested. Wisconsin's Department of Health Resources has a variety of resources:

- [Information on symptoms, and a map \(updated daily\) with community testing sites in Wisconsin](#)
- [DHS Wisconsin Health Connect](#): a confidential self-screening tool that, if required, will put you in touch with a Registered Nurse to further assess and triage.

## **Paid Family Leave**

Due to newly-enacted federal laws, many employers need to provide employees with paid leave during this pandemic. Here are two general resources to see if you are eligible for paid leave:

- [U.S. Dept. of Labor: Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights](#)
- [Understand Your Rights to Paid Leave and Paid Sick Time Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

## **Child Care for Essential Workers**

Under Governor Evers' Emergency Order on Thursday, March 18, the size of all child care settings are restricted so that they now may not operate with more than 10 staff present at a time and may not operate with more than 50 children present at a time. In addition, many child care centers have ceased operations. The priority for open childcare centers is that slots are given to employees, contractors, and other support staff working in health care.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has information for parents who are essential employees in need of childcare:

- [Essential Workers: make a request for childcare here through the Dept of Children & Families](#)
- [The Department of Children and Families' has a searchable map](#) to help families with essential workers identify possible child care locations in their community

## **Resources for Parents with Children Learning at Home**

Scores of Wisconsin parents are at home, trying to guide their children's schoolwork as they learn from home. Here are some helpful resources to help during this stressful time.

- [AFT's Share My Lesson Video: teachers sharing resources with parents](#)
- [AFT's Coronavirus & Distance Learning Resources for Parents](#)
- [Mental Health Resources for Parents, Children, & Educators](#)

## **Health Insurance & Health Care**

Newly unemployed workers may be in need of health insurance for themselves and their families. If so, Wisconsinites have 60 days to register for health insurance if they were recently unemployed and lost their health insurance coverage. Here are a few resources to secure health insurance and health care:

- [An Employee's Guide to Health Insurance Benefits Under COBRA](#)
- [See if you are Eligible for BadgerCare](#)
- [Healthcare.gov \(Federal Marketplace for Health Insurance\) FAQs](#)
- [List of Wisconsin's Federally Qualified Health Centers to Receive Affordable, Comprehensive Primary Care](#)
- [WI Dept. Health Services' On-line Search Tool to Locate Mental Health, Residential Care \(e.g., nursing homes\), Home Health, and/or Non-Long Term Care \(e.g., hospitals\)](#)

## **General assistance**

Every day, hundreds of people across Wisconsin turn to 211 for information and support for a variety of needs, from food to housing to elder care and even addiction issues, among others. To contact 211, Wisconsinites can:

- Dial 211 from any phone
- Text your zipcode to 898211
- [Chat with someone through the 211 website](#)

## **Housing, Utility, and Food Assistance**

When one worker becomes unemployed, it can be destabilizing for the entire household. These organization can help families secure food, maintain housing, and receive help with utilities.

- [Apply for FoodShare Benefits](#)
- [The Emergency Food Assistance Program Contacts by County](#)
- [Apply for Emergency Assistance from the Department of Children and Families](#) can provide a one-time payment to low-income families with at least one child in the house when the family is facing an eviction or when a utility non-payment threatens to turn off heat or electricity
- [Apply for Energy and Telephone Assistance through Wisconsin's Public Service Commission by County](#)

## **Coronavirus Tax Relief & Economic Impact Payment**

As part of the CARES Act that was passed by Congress, most Americans can expect a one-time stimulus check from the federal government.

- [If you haven't received your check, you can check on the status from the IRS here](#)
- [Use this chart from the IRS to calculate your stimulus check](#)

## **Assisting Others Impacted By COVID-19 with Unemployment Claims, Contact Tracing**

Please pass this information along to retired union business agents and/or anyone familiar with the unemployment process or wishing to help with contact tracing.

- [Apply here](#) for positions with the State DWD for Unemployment Claims adjudicator and specialists.
- [Apply here](#) for positions with the State Department of Health Services to assist in tracking and limiting the spread of COVID-19 within the State.

## **AFL-CIO Resource Page**

- [COVID-19 Pandemic Resources](#)