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NC Unemployment Insurance FAQ & Helpful Hints

1. Based on NC Executive Order 118, individuals who are separated from employment as a result of COVID-19 may immediately file for unemployment insurance benefits. The standard 30-day waiting period is waived, and the individual does not have to actively search for new employment. Employers' accounts will not be charged for benefits paid out to employees who are laid off as a result of COVID-19.
2. All new claims should be filed online at des.nc.gov. [Link to website](#)
3. Before an individual applies online for benefits, they should have the following information available:
 - Social Security Number
 - Details from your employer regarding separation, vacation, or severance pay you have received or expect to receive
 - Details regarding any retirement pay you receive – gross monthly amount
 - Bank routing number and account number for direct deposit. If you do not want direct deposit, DES will issue you a debit card.
 - Work history for the past two years – employer name, address, telephone number, employment dates, rate of pay, and reason for separation from each employer)
 - Non-citizens will need their alien number and expiration date from your Employment Authorization Document
4. Employees whose jobs are eliminated or who have hours substantially reduced due to COVID-19 are eligible to apply. If an individual is instructed to quarantine by a medical professional and their employer does not provide paid time off for sick leave, they may also apply for unemployment benefits
5. Calculation of NC Unemployment Benefits
 - To qualify for NC unemployment benefits, you must have received at least \$780 in wages in one of the last two completed quarters (3rd and 4th quarter 2019 based on our current timely)
 - Your Weekly benefit amount is then calculated by adding the wages paid to you in the last two completed quarters and dividing that number by 52.
 - If that amount is less than \$15, you are not eligible for benefits.
 - The maximum weekly benefit allowed is \$350
6. Currently, no changes have been made to the Employer Reimbursement election. If a government entity or nonprofit organization have elected to not contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Fund, they must reimburse the fund for actual claims made by former employees. Government entity includes any entity that pays a teacher at a public school or educational institution. Nonprofit organization includes all entities described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).