FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EXEMPTION FROM THE WEEKLY WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT

1. **Am I required to search for work during this state of emergency?**

   Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency in Maryland, you are exempt from the requirement to actively search for work until thirty (30) days after the state of emergency is lifted.

   You may still be selected for a federally-required reemployment workshop with a workforce professional which will take place one-on-one over the phone. The professional will work with you to develop an individualized reemployment plan to be implemented after the state of emergency is lifted.

   We strongly encourage you to complete any of the reemployment activities which can be done online with MWE at: [https://mwejobs.maryland.gov](https://mwejobs.maryland.gov).

   If you are in a union with a hiring hall, you must make regular contact in the manner prescribed by your union.

2. **I began receiving benefits before the order exempting the work search requirement was issued. Do I have to perform a work search each week?**

   If you are currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits, you are exempted from completing the weekly work search requirement for the duration of the state of emergency plus 30 days.

3. **I have been selected to participate in a reemployment workshop. Am I exempt from participating in the workshop during the state of emergency?**

   If you are selected to participate in a reemployment workshop during the state of emergency, you will be scheduled to complete a one-on-one telephone session with a Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) facilitator. During the one-on-one telephone session, you will work with the RESEA facilitator to develop an individual reemployment plan (IRP). However, you will not be required to complete the activities detailed in your IRP until the state of emergency has been lifted.
4. Although I am not required to search for work during the state of emergency, are there steps that I can take to increase my likelihood of getting reemployed once the labor market improves?

Yes! The Division of Unemployment Insurance encourages you to complete any of the activities listed below which can be done online at the Maryland Workforce Exchange (mwejobs.maryland.gov). By completing these activities, you can maintain and increase your skills and training and position yourself to be hired quickly when the labor market stabilizes and businesses are hiring again.

Self-Service Reemployment Activities that you can perform virtually in MWE-REX:

1. Self-Service Labor Market Research
2. Skills Self-Assessment
3. Outside Web-Linked Job Referral (e.g., Career Builder, Indeed, LinkedIn)
5. Networking Events conducted in REX
6. Completion of Training Courses in ALISON-REX
7. Attending a Calendar Event posted in MWE-REX
8. Virtual Recruiter
9. Register for Work with a Private Employment Agency or Placement Facility of a School, College, or University