NUHW FAQ: COVID-19 BENEFITS IN CALIFORNIA APRIL1, 2020

Governor Newsom has waived the 7-day waiting period to apply for unemployment, state disability and paid family leave programs. We recommend that you submit your applications as soon as possible. Be familiar with the employer-provided benefits and any temporary benefits extended by your employer. Talk to your steward or union representative if you need help or have questions about these benefits.

CAN I APPLY FOR CA PAID FAMILY LEAVE?

YES. If you're unable to work because you're caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, or any other illness (certified by a medical professional), you may be eligible. This program provides up to 6 weeks of paid leave, and starting on July 1, 2020, it will be 8 weeks. You are paid 60% to 70% of your current wages, which ranges from \$50 to \$1,300 a week depending on your income. Go to **edd.ca.gov** to apply.

CAN I APPLY FOR CA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE?

YES. If you have lost your job or have had your hours reduced because of COVID-19, you may be eligible. Unemployment insurance offers a partial wage replacement — \$40 to \$450 a week. Go to the **edd.ca.gov** to submit an application for unemployment insurance. The \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package extends jobless insurance by 13 weeks, and includes a fourmonth enhancement of benefits (an additional \$600 per week). The program is broadened to include freelancers, furloughed employees, and gig workers.

CAN I APPLY FOR STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE?

YES. If you're unable to work due to medical quarantine or illness related to COVID-19, or any other illness (certified by a medical professional), you may be eligible. Disability offers 60% to 70% of your wages, from \$50 to \$1,300 per week, for 52 weeks. Go to **edd.ca.gov** to apply for disability benefits. Note: your employer may provide 100% of your pay if you're quarantined with COVID-19. Please check with your Shop Steward or NUHW Union Representative.

CAN I APPLY FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

MAYBE. If you're unable to do your usual job because you were exposed to and contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of your work and cannot return to work for a prolonged period of time, are unable to return to work at all, or can only return with limitations, you may be eligible. Once you file at **dir.ca.gov**, the employer has 90 days to investigate the claim. We recommend that you file immediately for disability (see previous question), while your workers' compensation case is pending.









CAN I BE EVICTED FOR NOT PAYING RENT?

Governor Newsom passed an executive order on March 27, 2020 that temporarily bans evictions statewide for those affected by COVID-19. The measure prevents the evictions of renters for the nonpayment of rent through May 31, 2020. It covers those who have lost work because of the pandemic, have become sick, or have had to take care of family members with COVID-19.

Law enforcement and the court system also would be prohibited from executing evictions while the order is in effect. Renters are still required to eventually pay all the rent they owe, and must notify their landlords in writing within seven days of their nonpayment. To read the executive order, see **https://tinyurl.com/vmy4h2h.**

CAN MY HOUSE BE FORECLOSED ON IF I CAN'T MAKE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?

Governor Newsom announced a 90-day payment relief on mortgage payments on March 25, 2020. Financial institutions will offer mortgage payment forbearances of up to 90 days to borrowers economically impacted by COVID-19.

In addition, financial institutions will not report negative remarks to credit agencies, nor initiate foreclosure sales or evictions for at least 60 days. Late fees and other charges will be waived. To read Governor Newsom's announcement, go to **https://tinyurl.com/r88zn64.** To apply for relief, visit **https://covid19.ca.gov/get-financial-help/.**

CAN I EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO FILE MY CALIFORNIA AND FEDERAL TAX RETURNS?

YES. Both the federal and state governments have extended the deadline for filing and paying income taxes until July 15, 2020.

CAN I RECEIVE A STIMULUS PAYMENT?

MAYBE. The \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package offers payments to most adults of \$1,200 and an additional \$500 for every child under age 16. The amount depends on the income you reported to the IRS in 2019, or 2018 if you haven't filed your 2019 taxes.

- Single adults who have an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less would get the full amount.
- Married couples with no children earning \$150,000 or less would receive a total of \$2,400.
- Taxpayers filing as head of household would get the full payment if they earned \$112,500 or less.
- Single adults earning \$99,000 or more won't receive a stimulus payment; neither would married people with no children who earn \$198,000.

The Washington Post maintains an online calculator you can use to estimate your stimulus payment, based on your individual circumstances. You can find the calculator at **https://tinyurl.com/rqduukc.** The federal government says it will deliver payments in a matter of weeks.

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