

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2020

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**Governor Whitmer Orders Temporary Expansions in Unemployment Eligibility and Cost-Sharing**

**LANSING, Mich.** -- Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-24, clarifying how the expansion of eligibility for unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 will work.

The order:

- Suspends the requirement for an individual seeking unemployment to request a registration and work search waiver from their employer;
- Allows anyone with an active unemployment claim to receive up to a six-week benefit extension.
- Expands cost-sharing with employers. Any benefit paid to a claimant that is laid off or placed on a leave of absence will not be charged to the employer's accounts, but instead will be pooled and assumed by the Nonchargeable Benefits Component of employer accounts. Employers who unlawfully misclassify their workers and have underpaid their unemployment tax do not get the benefit of this enhanced cost-sharing.

"These are challenging times that all Michiganders are facing, and no one should be worried about how to make ends meet if they cannot work because of self-isolation or self-quarantine in response to contracting the coronavirus," said **Governor Whitmer**. "I will continue to take action that protects public health, while also ensuring that working families have the support they need during these hard times."

Executive Order 2020-24 takes the place of Executive Order 2020-10.

Patients with confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is to:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

To view Executive Order 2020-24, click the link below:

- [EO 2020-24 Emergency Order -Unemployment.pdf](#)

*This press release will be translated and made available in Arabic and Spanish at [www.michigan.gov/whitmer](http://www.michigan.gov/whitmer).*

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