



March 19, 2020

Dear Nebraska Employers:

The Nebraska Department of Labor recognizes that this is a challenging time for your business. Due to COVID-19, some of you have made the difficult decision to lay off workers without pay. Others will be facing this decision soon.

Any workers in a non-paid status due to COVID-19 may file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits. Unemployment claims in Nebraska are filed online at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://neworks.nebraska.gov).

On Tuesday, Governor Ricketts announced that from March 22 through May 2, NDOL would be waiving the requirement to search for work, as well as the requirement to serve an unpaid waiting week once eligibility is determined. Employers whose workers file claims tied to COVID-19 will also not be charged for those benefits. Nebraska's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund will instead be used. The Governor's press release and Executive Order can be viewed [here](#).

In addition to regular unemployment insurance benefits, employers also have the option of utilizing Short-Time Compensation (STC). The Short-Time Compensation program helps prevent layoffs by allowing employers to uniformly reduce affected employees' hours by 10 to 60 percent while permitting the employees to receive a prorated unemployment benefit. For more information, see the information on this page: <https://dol.nebraska.gov/STC>

For unemployment claims, live chat assistance is available on [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://neworks.nebraska.gov). Detailed questions may be emailed to ndol.nichelp@nebraska.gov and should include contact information. The NEworks mobile app is available to download for free. There is no requirement to visit a job center. The job centers are adhering to social distancing guidance to protect the health of our customers and our team. Job center locations and numbers are listed [here](#).

Please let us know if you have questions as you make decisions about how to move forward during this time. We are here to support you as you navigate this challenging situation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Albin".

John H. Albin
Commissioner of Labor