

Unemployment Benefits- Update
March 19, 2020

Unemployment Agency Lobbies Will Close

The state Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) is closing its lobbies to the public, except for appointments, to protect the health and safety of the public.

The move comes the same week that the Governor expanded unemployment benefits for workers who are affected by COVID-19 related closure orders (See "Gov Expands, Lengthens Unemployment Benefits," 3/16/20).

The UIA said people can apply for benefits online at www.michigan.gov/UIA or by calling 1-866-500-0017. The agency said the changes -- beginning at 3 p.m. today - - would remain in effect "as long as necessary."

The Governor ordered unemployment benefits expanded to people with unanticipated family responsibilities, like those who have to watch their kids because of the state-ordered school closures.

It also was extended to quarantined people, people with compromised immune systems and those who were laid off, among others.

"Michigan is doing all it can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We are asking residents to protect their health by not going into group settings unless necessary," said UIA Director Steve GRAY in a statement. "Limiting public visits to our UIA lobbies and eliminating in-person registration and work search requirements are critical steps in this emergency."