

# Unemployment Insurance and COVID-19

## Fact Sheet

1. The 1 week waiting period before unemployment benefits begin has been waived by Governor Stitt.
2. The work search requirement for unemployment claims has been waived by OESC Executive Director Roberson.
3. Benefit wage charges to employers for claims directly related to COVID-19 have been waived by Executive Director Roberson to prevent employer tax rates from being adversely affected by the claims.
4. The CARES Act will allow Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to self-employed individuals. Self-employed individuals must first apply for regular benefits on line, and once found monetarily ineligible for lack of reported wages, the self-employed individual should call the OESC Service Center to file the “PUA” claim.
5. The CARES Act will allow an extra benefit of \$600 per week, and it will allow for 13 weeks of extended benefits after regular unemployment benefits run out.
6. To file a claim for unemployment benefits, claimants may file online at <https://www.ok.gov/oesc/Claimants/> or you may call the UI Service Center at the following numbers:  
  
Inside OKC calling area:405/525-1500  
  
Outside the OKC calling area 1-800-555-1554  
  
TTY/TTD calls 1-800-722-0353 and voice calls at 1-800-522-8506
7. If you experience difficulties in filing your claim or if you have questions about unemployment benefits you may e-mail OESC Helps at [oesc.helps@oesc.state.ok.us](mailto:oesc.helps@oesc.state.ok.us)
8. Proof of Identification should be e-mailed, mailed or faxed to OESC during the time COVID-19 measures require OESC offices to remain closed. ID documents can be e-mailed to [idverification@oesc.state.ok.us](mailto:idverification@oesc.state.ok.us). ID documents may be mailed to:  
  
OESC  
P.O. Box 52006  
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2006  
  
ID documents may be faxed to 405/962-7524
9. For UI Benefit Debit Cards questions, please call 1-866-320-8699 or visit [www.goprogram.com](http://www.goprogram.com)