Reemployment Basics

• Meant to be a temporary, partial wage replacement to help cover necessities (food, housing, etc.)

• Not meant to replace paid leave, such as sick leave or vacation leave
Basics, continued...

- Benefits = approximately 50% of someone’s previous average weekly wage, up to the maximum weekly benefit amount of $414 per week
- Maximum weekly benefit is $414 per week
  - Related wage scenario: Weekly wage $818; Annual wage $42,536
- Minimum wage job assuming full-time hours
  - Related wage scenario: $9.30 per hour; Weekly wage = $372. Approximate weekly benefit = $186
Perspective

• Week ending March 14 = 190 initial claims
• Week ending March 21 = 1,703 initial claims
• Call Center typical staffing = 11
• 25 staff added March 23
• 23 additional phone lines March 26 (now 115)
Eligibility Related to COVID-19

• Those who are quarantined by a medical professional or a government agency,
• Those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period by their employer due to COVID-19 concerns, or
• Those who test positive for COVID-19.

Work search requirements have been waived.
Employers: SIDES e-Response

- Sign up for the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES)
- Fast and secure (part of process, not entire)
- Once employer signs up, claim notes are emailed not mailed
- SIDES is especially helpful to large volume layoffs
- To sign up: https://dlr.sd.gov/ra/businesses/sides.aspx
Employer Question

• What should we as an employer do when preparing to lay individuals off, but hope they will return?
  – Sign up for SIDES
  – Define layoff as temporary tied to COVID-19
  – Consider requiring staff to use paid leave first
  – Send questions to DLRRADivision@state.sd.us
Employer Question

• What advice should we give employees?
  – File online at raclaims.sd.gov
  – Have Social Security #, Driver’s License or State ID, and 18 months' work history
  – Request direct deposit when prompted
  – Don’t panic; claims can be backdated
  – Information will be confirmed with employer
Employer Questions

• How much do laid-off workers get with unemployment?
  – Average 50% of weekly wage; Max $414/week

• Are part-time employees eligible?
  – Possibly; individuals with reduced hours may also be eligible

• Employers hired through a disabilities support center eligible?
  – Guidance will vary by program
Things to Watch

• Federal legislation requires waiting week be waived and employer tax rates not be impacted
• FFCRA – Guidance to be released on April 1
• CARES Act – Passed Senate; House to vote on March 27
Important Resources

• Post/Search for Jobs: sdjobs.org
• File UI online: raclaims.sd.gov
• File UI by phone: 605.626.3179
  – Minimum 1 hour wait time
• Employer questions: DLRRADivision@state.sd.us
Thank you

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