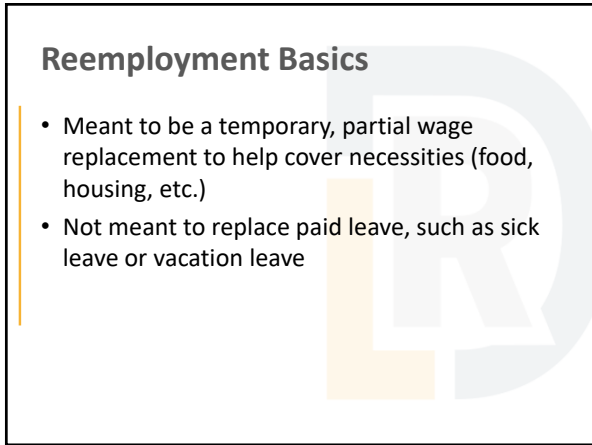
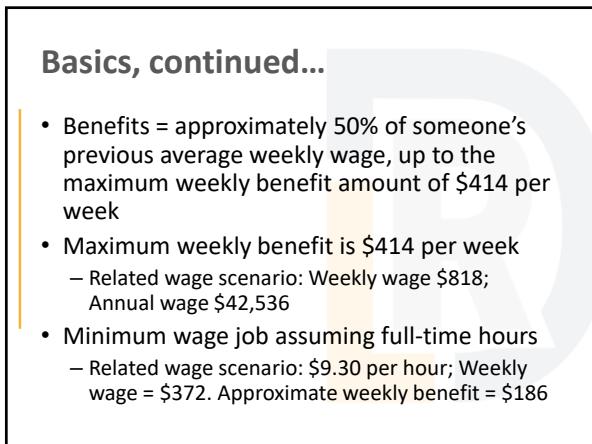




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Perspective

- 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)

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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.

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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>

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Layoff letter – items to include

- Related to COVID-19
- Reduction of hours, or
- Temporary layoff with tentative callback date (dated 10 weeks from day of layoff)
- Note: if business is able to reopen and resume work hours prior to callback date refusal to return may result in loss of benefits

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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 in layoff/reduction of hours letter
 - Consider requiring staff to use paid leave first
 - Send questions to DLRRADivision@state.sd.us

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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

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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

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Employer Questions

- Tipped employees – tips declared as income
 - \$4.65/hour plus \$20 tips/hour x hours worked
- Tipped employees – tips not declared as income = \$9.30
- Figure out average weekly wage – weekly benefit equals approximately 50% up to \$414

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Employer Questions

- Can the employer require employees to use leave first?
- Can accounting firm do necessary RA steps?
- Officially close? Need notice of status?
- Previously planning to terminate employee
- Terms – furlough/layoff and terminate/fire
- Part-time eligible?
- Self-employed such as hairdressers, booth renters, and independent contractors?

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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

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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

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Thank you

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