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IMPORTANT CLIENT UPDATE

GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-10 **ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-10 (3/16/20) temporarily expands eligibility for unemployment benefits through April 14, 2020 for employees whose employment is affected by the coronavirus, i.e., absent from work due to:

- (a) isolation/quarantine due to elevated risk (i.e., being immunocompromised, displaying symptoms, or having had contact with someone with a confirmed case);
- (b) the need to care for someone with a confirmed case; or
- (c) family care responsibility due to government directive (e.g., school closure).

Under the Executive Order, the employee is considered to have left work involuntarily due to medical reasons, without having to secure a doctor's statement, seek alternative work, or request a leave of absence.

Further, an employee on a leave of absence for these reasons must be considered unemployed, unless the individual is already on sick leave or disability.

A claim for unemployment by an individual unemployed for these reasons is considered timely filed so long as the individual files within 28 days of the last day worked.

Benefits are increased from 20 weeks to up to 26 weeks for Initial claims filed by eligible employees through April 14, 2020.

Shared-work plans with other employers may be approved without an employer meeting the requirement of having a positive reserve account.

An employer will not be charged for unemployment benefits if their employees become unemployed because of an executive order requiring them to close or limit operations.

Should you have questions concerning this Executive Order, please do not hesitate to contact our Office.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/executiveorder/pdf/2020-EO-10.pdf>

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