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**MARYLAND'S DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**  
**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
**EXEMPTION FROM THE WEEKLY WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT**

**1. Am I required to search for work during this state of emergency?**

The Maryland Secretary of Labor has ordered, effective March 20th, 2020, a ten (10) week exemption from the requirement that claimants actively seek work every week in order to be eligible for benefits. Labor is temporarily waiving the work search requirements for all current and new unemployment insurance benefit recipients. This exemption will apply to individuals who become eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits no later than thirty (30) days after the termination of the state of emergency.

Claimants who are selected to participate in a federally-required reemployment workshop during this period will be required to complete a one-on-one telephone session with a RESEA facilitator to develop an individual reemployment plan (IRP). The claimant will not be required to complete the duties detailed in their IRP until the state of emergency has been lifted.

**2. I began receiving benefits before the order exempting the work search requirement was issued. Do I have to perform a work search each week?**

If you are currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits, you will be exempted from completing the weekly work search requirement for ten (10) weeks, beginning the week of March 20th, 2020.

**3. I have been selected to participate in a reemployment workshop. Am I exempt from participating in the workshop during the state of emergency?**

If you are selected to participate in a reemployment workshop during the state of emergency, you will be scheduled to complete a one-on-one telephone session with a Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) facilitator. During the one-on-one telephone session, you will work with the RESEA facilitator to develop an individual reemployment plan (IRP). However, you will not be required to complete the activities detailed in your IRP until the state of emergency has been lifted.

**4. Although I am not required to search for work during the state of emergency, are there steps that I can take to increase my likelihood of getting reemployed once the labor market improves?**

Yes! The Division of Unemployment Insurance encourages you to complete any of the activities listed below which can be done online at the [Maryland Workforce Exchange](#). By completing these activities, you can maintain and increase your skills and training and

~~position yourself to be hired quickly when the labor market stabilizes and businesses are hiring again.~~

Self-Service Reemployment Activities that you can perform virtually in [MWE-REX](#):

1. Self-Service Labor Market Research
2. Skills Self-Assessment
3. Outside Web-Linked Job Referral (e.g., Career Builder, Indeed, LinkedIn)
4. Networking Events conducted in REX
5. Completion of Training Courses in ALISON-REX
6. Attending a Calendar Event posted in MWE-REX
7. Virtual Recruiter
8. Register for Work with a Private Employment Agency or Placement Facility of a School, College, or University