



The Hibbing Area Chamber has been tracking several items regarding resources available to employers and employees related to COVID-19. We will continue to update you with critical information as we receive it.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has created a website for employers to help answer your questions. Please visit this [link](#) for information on worker health and safety, if you need to reduce employees' hours, programs available if you need to close your business or lay off a large number of workers, or if you are a small business that needs assistance.

Summary of COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Changes

- Governor Walz issued an executive order related to COVID-19 and UI effective March 16, 2020.
- Employees will be eligible for UI if they are unable to work due to recommended/required quarantine or if they have lost access to childcare.
- Business's long term UI rates will not increase due to claims made during this time.
- The "waiting week" has been waived to get benefits to employees as soon as possible.
- Employees are encouraged by DEED to use their paid leave benefits (PTO, sick, vacation) before applying for UI since UI will cover only a portion of their normal pay.
- All claims should be made at www.uimn.org to keep phone lines free for those who cannot access the internet. Call wait times are long and growing. All claims must be made within Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Additional information is available here: <https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/covid-19.jsp>

Access to Working Capital

- The state has applied for SBA Disaster Loan Assistance funding, which would expand the availability of working capital loans for small businesses. We will provide more information when Minnesota is approved for that program.
- We are gathering information from local lenders who can assist you with your businesses needs during this time and will distribute that information when available. Please contact your local bankers and finance partners if your business is experiencing difficulties at this time.

Survey of Your Needs

If you have not yet filled out the Hibbing Area Chamber COVID-19 Business Survey, please spend 5 minutes and complete the survey today! Your responses will help guide us on how we might adjust our program of work to best serve you during this time. We hope that through collective action, we can ease the burden and make positive impacts together on our local economy.

[Click here](#) or paste this link into your

browser: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2FD4YIjQ2kGrOCZHVD2c7nyiC6W-ILRJi5JQtf3em5BUN1MwTjhXSUUyMU1YMEJHNkJVR1hIUIEwSC4u>