

COVID-19 Resources in Washington State

Table of Contents (click to jump to section)

[List of Resource Pages](#)

[Employment & Financial Assistance](#)

[Healthcare and Medical Leave](#)

[Housing](#)

[Transit](#)

[Utilities](#)

[Food Insecurity](#)

[Mutual Aid](#)

[Arts Workers](#)

[Service & Hospitality Workers](#)

[Student Loans](#)

[Immigrants Rights & Travel Restrictions](#)

[Childcare, Student Lunches, & Home Education](#)

*** If you are an Academic Student Employee (TA, RA, SA, predoctoral instructor, grader, tutor, reader) or Postdoctoral Scholar at UW, you have additional rights under your contract. Please contact contractenforcement@uaw4121.org with any questions ***

This is a living document, and will continue to be updated as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic develops. If you know of resources that aren't listed here or have questions, please email health-safety@uaw4121.org.

Last update 3/19/20 at 5pm.

List of Resource Pages

- [Summary of scenarios & benefits you may be eligible for \(as of 3/18\)](#)
- [Washington Governor Jay Inslee's COVID resource page](#)
- [Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan's COVID resource page](#)
- [Seattle City Council's COVID resource page](#)
- [King County's COVID resource page](#)
- [Pierce County's COVID resource page](#)
- [Tacoma-Pierce County COVID financial resources](#)
- [Financial resources for Washington residents](#)
- [UW's COVID resource page](#)
- [LGBTQ Allyship's resource page](#) -- very comprehensive list, including a wide range of resources

Employment & Financial Assistance

- **Unemployment insurance:**
 - If you have worked at least part-time in Washington over the past year and your job has been shut down because of COVID, you are likely eligible for unemployment insurance. ([3/18 via ESD](#))
 - For those applying for unemployment insurance, Washington state will waive the one-week waiting period for accessing those benefits. The measure in question retroactively covers claims filed up to March 8. ([3/18 via KUOW](#))
 - The emergency rules for unemployment benefits through the state does not require that workers impacted by COVID demonstrate they're looking for work.
 - The maximum weekly benefit amount is \$790. The minimum is \$188. No one who is eligible for benefits will receive less than this, regardless of their earnings. ([3/18 via ESD](#))
- **Credit card payments:**
 - Credit card companies and lenders may be able to offer you a number of options to help you. This could include waiving certain fees like ATM, overpayments, and late fees, as well as allowing you to delay, adjust, or skip some payments. ([3/19 via wa.gov](#))

Healthcare and Medical Leave

- **Testing for COVID**
 - The Washington State insurance commissioner has ordered all health plans regulated by his office to waive copays and deductibles for COVID testing ([3/19 via insurance.wa.gov](#))
- **Getting insurance**

- The Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) announced a limited-time special enrollment period for qualified individuals who are currently without insurance. This special enrollment period (SEP), that runs through **April 8, 2020**, will allow uninsured individuals 30 days to enroll in health insurance coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder. ([3/19 via wabhexchange.org](#))
 - **Washington Paid Family & Medical Leave**
 - You may be eligible for leave under the state program. More information on their website. ([3/19 via paidleave.wa.gov](#))
 - **Mental health resources at UW**
 - Students at Seattle campus: [Hall Health and the Counseling Center](#).
 - Students at Tacoma campus: [Counseling and Psychological Services](#).
 - Students at Bothell campus: [Counseling Center](#).
-

Housing

- **Seattle**
 - Moratorium on evictions for 60 days starting 3/16/20 ([3/19 via Seattle.gov](#))
 - Your landlord cannot charge any fees for late or partial payments during the moratorium ([3/19 via Seattle.gov](#))
 - **Washington State**
 - Eviction Ban for 30 days starting 3/18/20 ([3/18 via KUOW](#))
 - Residential landlords in Washington state cannot evict tenants solely for the nonpayment of rent for the next 30 days ([3/18 via KUOW](#))
 - **Federal**
 - Foreclosure/eviction deferrals: Housing Finance Agency has directed mortgage loan companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to defer foreclosures and evictions for at least 60 days. ([3/18 via KUOW](#))
-

Transit

- **King County Transit**
 - King County Metro has [temporarily discontinued fare payments](#) for all riders. Riders should now enter using rear doors, unless needing use of the boarding ramp. As of March 23, King County Metro will be running on a reduced schedule.
-

Utilities

- **Washington utilities:**
 - Moratorium on late fees for public utilities in Washington State. Public utility companies across the state have been ordered to halt penalties for unpaid accounts ([3/19 via wa.gov](#)).
 - **Seattle utilities:**
 - Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle City Light (SCL) will keep utility services on during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency in Seattle, providing utility relief for customers, both residential and commercial, financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. ([3/19 via Seattle.gov](#))
 - **Seattle City Light:**
 - Set up a payment plan using [this form](#). ([3/19 via Seattle.gov](#))
 - **Puget Sound Energy:**
 - Multiple assistance plans available on the [PSE website](#). ([3/19 via pse.com](#))
 - **Tacoma Public Utilities Emergency Assistance Program**
 - A number of utilities assistance plans are available ([3/19 via mytpu.org](#))
 - **Pierce County energy assistance program**
 - A number of utilities assistance plans are available ([3/19 via piercecountywa.gov](#))
 - **Xfinity wifi:**
 - Free Xfinity hotspots and more resources available ([3/19 via comcast.com](#))
-

Food Insecurity

- **UW Food Pantry:**
 - The UW Food Pantry on Seattle campus is maintaining its normal hours unless campus operations are suspended. [Info about hours and services on their website](#). ([3/19 via washington.edu](#))
 - **Student lunches:**
 - Beginning Monday, March 16, Seattle Public Schools will be distributing lunches from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every weekday at 26 school sites throughout the city. All SPS students can participate. Lunch distribution sites can be found on SPS's [family resource page](#) ([3/18 via Seattle.gov](#))
 - Pierce county is offering free lunches for children 0-18. ([3/19 via tpchd.org](#))
-

Mutual Aid

- **Seattle**

- To receive support in Seattle [fill out this form](#).
 - To give support in Seattle [fill out this form](#).
 - **Tacoma**
 - To receive support in Tacoma [fill out this form](#).
 - To give support in Tacoma email tacomamutualaidcollective@gmail.com or donate at <https://www.paypal.me/tacomamutualaid>.
 - **Across the US**
 - Many mutual aid networks across the country are identified on [this interactive map](#)
-

Arts Workers

- Individual artists/gig workers in the Seattle area may be eligible to receive emergency funds through the [Seattle Artists Relief Fund](#) ([more info](#) // [apply](#) // [donate](#))
 - Individual artists in Washington state may be eligible to receive emergency funds through the [Artist Trust Relief Fund](#)
-

Service & Hospitality Workers

- Individual hospitality workers can apply for emergency funds through the Seattle Hospitality Emergency Fund ([more info](#) // [apply](#) // [donate](#)) ([3/19 update: applications temporarily closed due to large volume of requests](#))
-

Student Loans

- Your servicer or school can provide information about deferment or forbearance options that allow you to temporarily stop making payments on your loans. You may also be able to change to a different repayment plan that would give you a lower monthly payment. ([3/19 via wa.gov](#))
-

Immigrants Rights & Travel Restrictions

- The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project [has a page on their website](#) with COVID information for immigrants (offered in multiple languages)
 - One America has a comprehensive list of resources for immigrants and undocumented folks [on their website](#)
 - Seattle: Immigrant and refugee communities can access city services without being asked about their legal status. ([3/19 via Seattle.gov](#))
 - Information from the US State Department about international travel is available [on their website](#) ([3/19 via travel.state.gov](#))
-

Childcare, Student Lunches, & Home Education

- [Free resource list for home education](#) (3/19)
- Beginning Monday, March 16, Seattle Public Schools will be distributing lunches from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every weekday at 26 school sites throughout the city. All SPS students can participate. Lunch distribution sites can be found on SPS's [family resource page](#) ([3/18 via Seattle.gov](#))