

Information about State Extended Benefit (EB) Program Ending November 14

When in effect, state Extended Benefits (EB) provides up to 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to those who have exhausted up to 26 weeks of regular state unemployment benefits, and up to 13 weeks of federal PEUC.

As prescribed in law, the state Extended Benefit (EB) program is only available when certain levels of unemployment are reached in the State of Maine. It ends when the insured unemployment rate falls below the minimally required level for EB.

Maine's unemployment level no longer meets the minimum required in law. As a result, the week ending **November 14, 2020** will be the *last* week of unemployment benefits for EB. This means, when you file your Weekly Certification for week ending November 14, this will be the last EB payment you receive.

What happens next?

You may be eligible to receive additional benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program if you qualify for PUA, and have received less than 39 weeks of benefits under the regular state unemployment and EB programs combined. Benefits received under the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) are not included, even though it was the program that came between state unemployment and EB.

Do I meet PUA eligibility?

Eligibility for PUA requires that your loss of work be related to COVID-19. If you have not yet answered the PUA eligibility questionnaire, it will be included in your upcoming weekly certification so that we can determine if you are eligible for PUA. If we already have this information on file, you will just need to continue filing your next weekly certifications. PUA weekly certifications starting with the week ending November 21 will include a couple of PUA-specific questions pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and your unemployment.

How many weeks of PUA benefits can I receive?

The maximum amount of PUA benefits a person can receive is 39 weeks ***minus*** any weeks of benefits already received under the regular state unemployment program and EB. If you received less than 26 weeks of state unemployment benefits or less than 13 weeks of EB, you may be eligible for additional weeks of benefits under PUA. For example, if you received 26 weeks of state unemployment and only 10 of the 13 weeks of EB, you would be eligible for 3 weeks of PUA.

If you already received the full 26 weeks of state unemployment and the full 13 weeks of EB, then there are no additional weeks of PUA available to you and unfortunately, there are no

other unemployment programs available at this time. If you still need assistance, call 211 on your phone or visit 211maine.org. 211 can connect you with available support in your area.

Please note, PUA runs through the week ending December 26, 2020 in accordance with federal law.

Could EB be triggered back on again?

Per federal requirement, EB can only trigger back on after 13 weeks. The average insured unemployment rate for the last 13 weeks must be at least 5% and be more than 120% of the average for the last 2 years for the same time period.

If you have questions, please call the unemployment call line at 1-800-593-7660. The line is very busy at the beginning of the week and is the least busy on Thursdays and Fridays.