



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Nov. 13, 2020

**Contact:**

Melanni Rosales

[OED\\_Communications@oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@oregon.gov)

503-949-1851

**Oregon Employment Department Prepares for Hike in Unemployment Claims  
During Two-Week Freeze**

**Nov. 13, 2020 (Salem, OR)**--The Oregon Employment Department announced today that it is preparing for an increase in unemployment claims following Governor Kate Brown's statewide Two-Week Freeze. Oregonians whose employment is impacted by this effort to curb the exponential spread of COVID-19 will need to either file an initial claim or restart a stopped claim.

"While the Two-Week Freeze may not directly affect all businesses, we want Oregonians to know that we are in a much better place than we were at the start of the pandemic to respond to an uptick in unemployment claims. We are ready to take your claims and ensure you get your benefits as quickly as possible, whether through an existing benefit program or any new federal program that may get passed," said acting director David Gerstenfeld.

The Employment Department is preparing to increase its claims processing capacity with support from the National Guard. The department is also developing an option for impacted employers to submit employee information in bulk to minimize the need for employees to locate key information that may not be easily accessible.

Oregonians whose employment is impacted by the Two-Week Freeze should take the Employment Department's [Eligibility Quiz](#) to determine which benefit program they are eligible for.

If a claimant has returned to work and their employment is impacted by the Two-Week Freeze, they will need to restart their claim. Claims can be restarted by going to the [Online Claim System](#) and selecting *Restart Your Claim* (the eighth button down). Those unable to restart their claim this way should contact the Employment Department via the [Contact Us form](#) and select the *Restarting my claim* option.

###

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.