

AAA MEMO: HCM 20-07 Date: April 7, 2020

## Benefits under the First Families Coronavirus Response Act

The FFCRA provides additional benefits to Oklahoma employees and SoonerCare members in light of COVID-19. This memo provides an overview of these benefits and guidance offered from state agencies responsible for ensuring the provisions of FFCRA are carried out.

## Unemployment benefits and guidance from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

Division D – Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020.

Provisions that apply to employees in Oklahoma:

- 1. The one-week waiting period before unemployment benefits begin has been waived by Governor Stitt.
- 2. The work search requirement for unemployment claims has been waived by OESC Executive Director Roberson.
- 3. Benefit wage charges to employers for claims directly related to COVID-19 have been waived by Executive Director Roberson to prevent employer tax rates from being adversely affected by the claims.
- 4. OESC is in the process of drafting legislation that will allow for extended benefits if necessary.
- 5. To file a claim for unemployment benefits, claimants may go online to <u>oesc.ok.gov</u> or call the UI Service Center at the following numbers:
  - Inside OKC calling area:405-525-1500.
  - Outside the OKC calling area: 800-555-1554.
  - TTY/TTD calls: 800-722-0353; Voice calls: 800-522-8506.
- 6. If you experience difficulties in filing your claim or if you have questions about unemployment benefits, you may email OESC Helps at <a href="mailto:oesc.helps@oesc.state.ok.us">oesc.helps@oesc.state.ok.us</a>.
- Proof of identification should be emailed, mailed or faxed to OESC during the time COVID-19 measures require OESC offices to remain closed. ID documents can be emailed to idverification@oesc.state.ok.us. ID documents may be mailed to: OESC

P.O. Box 52006

Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2006, or

ID documents may be faxed to 405-962-7524.

8. For UI Benefit Debit Card questions, please call 866-320-8699 or visit www.goprogram.com.

## SoonerCare coverage and guidance from the Oklahoma Health Care Authority

OHCA has published guidance on COVID-19 and additional benefits available to SoonerCare members. The guidance can be found at the following links: <a href="http://www.okhca.org/about.aspx?id=24615&terms=covid-19">http://www.okhca.org/providers.aspx?id=24604&terms=covid-19</a>.

## Paid leave benefits available to state employees and guidance from the Office of Management and Enterprise Services

OMES has published guidance regarding the paid leave benefits under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act of the FFCRA. The guidance can be found at the following link:

https://omes.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc316/f/documents/202004/FFCRA-Information.pdf.