



Highlights of DUA's temporary COVID-19 policy flexibilities announced in UIPP 2020.12, UIPP 2020.14, and UIPP 2020.15

Employment is not considered suitable if it would pose a substantial risk to the claimant's health or safety; or if the claimant were to accept the employment, the claimant's health or safety would be compromised due to an underlying medical or other condition. The claimant must have a reasonable belief that one of these factors applies. (UIPP 2020.12)

A claimant will have good cause to refuse suitable work if the health or safety of the claimant's child or dependent, an immediate family member, or another household member is put at unreasonable risk by the conditions of the employment. (UIPP 2020.12)

A claimant is not disqualified under § 25(c) for refusing otherwise suitable work if, due to age, medical condition, or other condition or infirmity, another individual requires the claimant's full-time care and no alternate care is available due to COVID-19. (UIPP 2020.12)

Because claimants need only be available "for any work for all or a portion of the week claimed," a claimant who is caring for a child or adult at home may be considered available for work if the claimant could work from home via a teleworking or remote set-up. (UIPP 2020.12)

The work search requirement is waived for all claims filed or re-opened during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, as long as they are ready to work once the pandemic measures have been lifted. (UIPP 2020.15)

After separation or while on an unpaid leave of absence (definite or indefinite), claimants may not be disqualified under §§ 24(b), 29(a), (b), or 1(r), if the reason for the claimant's inability to work is related to COVID-19. (UIPP 2020.14) Note: they must still be able to perform *some type* of work.

Claimants may limit their availability to part-time employment for COVID-19 related reasons. This is in addition to the reasons listed in 430 CMR § 4.45. (UIPP 2020.14)