



**DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
UI POLICY & PERFORMANCE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Date: September 7, 2021

Rescission(s): UIPP 2019.01

Reference No.: UIPP 2021.05

TO: All Senior Staff Directors, DUA Managers, Career Center Field Operations Directors, and Call Center Staff

FROM: Emmy Patronick, Director of Policy and Performance

SUBJECT: Maximum Duration of Benefit Weeks for Initial Unemployment Claims

1. BACKGROUND:

Massachusetts General Laws 151A, Section 30¹, provides guidance on how to calculate the potential duration of an unemployment insurance (UI) claim. Per Massachusetts law, when the twelve-month average unemployment rate for each of the Commonwealth's measured metropolitan areas is above 5.1%, the maximum number of weeks for which a claimant may receive unemployment benefits is increased from 26 to 30 weeks. Under the statute, if the monthly unemployment rate rises above 5.1% in any of the Massachusetts measured metropolitan areas, all claimants, regardless of initial filing date, will be eligible for a maximum of up to 30 weeks of benefits.

Massachusetts reduced the number of weeks to 26 due to the federal extensions of unemployment benefits. The Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance statute, G.L. c. 151A, §30(b) provides that during a period of federal extension, the maximum allowable weeks of benefits must be reduced to 26.

Because the last payable week of the federal extensions is September 4, 2021, the provisions of G.L. c. 151A, §30(a) take effect on September 5, 2021.

¹ [Massachusetts General Law: Part I, Title XXI, Chapter 151A, Section 30](#)

2. ACTION:

Effective September 5, 2021, regardless of the initial filing date, the maximum allowable duration of benefits will be 30 weeks.

Claimants who have collected the maximum number of regular UI benefits (previously up to 26 weeks) and at least four weeks of Extended Benefits on their claim, would **not** be eligible for additional Regular UI benefits. If the claimant has not exhausted Regular UI benefits, they may be eligible for up to an additional four weeks of Regular UI benefits. Regular benefits for weeks 27-30 will be restored for claimants, if weeks 27-30 were not paid on PEUC or EB2020, and the claim has not expired.

Example 1: Claimant A collected 26 weeks of Regular UI benefits and 13 weeks of PEUC 1.0 benefits. As Claimant A collected beyond the 30 weeks of benefits, Claimant A is not eligible for any additional Regular UI benefits.

Example 2: Claimant B collected 18 weeks of Regular UI benefits and has an additional 8 weeks of Regular UI benefits (26 weeks total). Claimant B will receive a notice informing him/her/them of the change in the total number of weeks of benefits (an additional 12 weeks of Regular UI benefits (30 weeks total.)

Example 3: Claimant C has a monetary determination of 22 weeks of Regular UI benefits. As of 9/5/2021, the claimant has collected all 22 weeks of regular benefits and one week of PEUC 1.0. Claimant C is not eligible for any further benefits since the claimant has already received all of the weeks of Regular UI benefits he/she/they were entitled to, based on the initial monetary determination.

3. QUESTIONS: Please email UIPolicyandPerformance@detma.org