



DEPARTMENT OF  
CAREER SERVICES

# Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 32.106**

☐ Policy ☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs  
MassHire Workforce Board Directors  
MassHire Career Center Directors  
MassHire Fiscal Officers  
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
MassHire Department of Career Services

**Date:** May 20, 2021

**Subject:** **Unemployment Insurance Claimant Work Search Requirements**

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**Purpose:** To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce development partners that the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) work search requirements of G. L. c. 151A, § 24(b) will be re-instated as of June 15, 2021.

**Background:** In March of 2020 DUA waived work search requirements for regular UI claimants as part of changes made due to the pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 on the workplace. A combination of federal policy guidance, state emergency regulations, and DUA policy guidance created the option in March of 2020 to waive work search for individuals impacted by COVID-19.

On November 25, 2020, DUA informed staff again that work search requirements of G. L. c. 151A, § 24(b) were waived for all claims filed or reopened during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, so long as such claimants remained ready to return to work once the pandemic measures have been lifted. DUA waived work search requirements until such time as the COVID-19 emergency measures have been lifted.

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD/TTY 1-800-439-2370 - Voice 1-800-439-0183

On May 17, 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Commonwealth is on track to meet the goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June and all remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted and all industries will be permitted to open effective May 29, 2021. With the exception of the remaining face-covering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers. The gathering limit will be rescinded. Governor Charlie Baker will end the State of Emergency on June 15, 2021.

Effective June 15, 2021, given that COVID-19 emergency measures will be lifted, work search requirements will be reinstated for anyone who requests unemployment benefits after that date.

Please refer to the attached press release and DUA Policy Memo.

The link to the press release posting on the Mass.Gov website is here:  
<https://www.mass.gov/news/massachusetts-announces-reinstatement-of-unemployment-work-search-requirements-beginning-week-of-june-15-2021>

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share this issuance with all appropriate staff and partners.

**Effective:** Immediately

**Attachments:**

**A: Press Release:** “Massachusetts Announces Reinstatement of Unemployment Work Search Requirements Beginning Week of June 15”

**B. DUA Policy Memo:** UIPP 2021.04 – “Work Search Requirements”