

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission



Robin Roberson, Executive Director

J. Kevin Stitt, Governor

Representing Employers

David Adams, Commissioner
Karen Hudson, Commissioner

Representing the Public

David Reid, Chair

Representing Employees

Jim Quillen, Commissioner
Trent Smith, Commissioner

Executive Director's Order Waiving Benefit Wage Charges for Unemployment Claims Directly Related to the COVID-19 State of Emergency – 1st Revision

Date: March 26, 2020

I, Robin Roberson, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC), under the authority granted to me by the Employment Security Act of 1980, and in consultation with the Deputy Director, the General Counsel, and the Unemployment Insurance Director of the OESC, hereby find that the conditions existing under the current presidential and gubernatorial declarations of a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitate invoking the provisions of 40 O.S. §3-106.1. By invoking this statute, I direct that all benefit wage charges to experience rated employers for allowed claims of unemployment benefits that are directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic shall be waived. An attempt will be made to prevent charge notices from being mailed to employers on COVID-19 claims, but if an employer does receive a benefit wage charge notice on a COVID-19 claim, the employer should timely protest the charge and give information about the nature of the claim. Reimbursing charges to reimbursing employers shall not be waived and must be paid timely.

This action is necessary because certain public officials, public health authorities and business owners have issued directives and policies for businesses to curtail or close business operations to prevent close contact of customers and workers, which in turn will prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and lead to a resumption of normal business operations in the shortest amount of time. This directive will provide the greatest amount of tax rate relief to Oklahoma employers in this time of crises.

This directive shall remain in force from the date of issuance until December 31, 2020, and all claims arising during the crises have been resolved.

It is so ordered.

Robin Roberson, Executive Director
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission