



## **Information Regarding Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**

Employees of the Archdiocese or other Catholic entities whose wages have been reduced or stopped due to the COVID-19 virus may wish to file for unemployment benefits through the **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** program, established by the CARES Act. In addition, school employees whose school has announced that it is permanently closing may apply for PUA benefits over the summer, unless the teacher or other staff member has already signed a contract or received an offer letter for re-employment in the Fall. Other school employees who will not be employed in the Fall may also qualify for PUA benefits over the summer if the job loss relates to COVID-19. The link to apply for PUA benefits is the first one below.

It is our understanding that employees whose only wages for calendar year 2019 were from the Archdiocese or another Catholic entity that does not participate in the regular Massachusetts unemployment program may answer “no” to the question below in the PUA portal and then proceed through the remainder of the portal. If they did receive wages in 2019 from an employer that participates in the regular unemployment program, they must first file a claim through the regular DUA portal. A link to the regular DUA portal is the second one below.

During the last 12 months, did you earn a total of more than \$5,100.00 of employment income from employer(s) who took taxes out of your paycheck?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Once the application is received, a representative of the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment will contact the employee with an approval or denial and information about future claim processes. As of late June 2020, employers have not been contacted about these claims. However, the DUA may begin contacting employers in the future.

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-pandemic-unemployment-assistance>

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-unemployment-benefits>

Employees should be advised that if their parish/school returns them to active payroll status at their full pay amount, they should stop filing weekly requests for PUA benefits. Receipt of PUA benefits while receiving full pay from an employer could result in action taken by the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment and/or the US Department of the Treasury to recoup these amounts. Employers will be required to report any refusals to return to work to the DUA in the future.

Please contact the Archdiocese of Boston Human Resources office at [hr@rcab.org](mailto:hr@rcab.org) or (617) 746-5625 with any questions.