

Unemployment Insurance & the Federal Government Shutdown

Frequently Asked Questions (revised 1/29/2019)

The Shutdown is Over, Now What?

Were you a furloughed federal worker who filed for unemployment benefits and now have returned to work?

Q: Do I have to do anything to cancel my Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim?

A: No. Once you stop filing for weekly benefits, your claim will automatically close. If you need to file for benefits again due to another shutdown or other reason, you can reactivate your claim online.

Q: I understand that I must repay the Unemployment Insurance benefits I received because I will get backpay for my furloughed time. What should I do now?

A: Don't take any action yet. Wait until you receive an Overpayment Notice in the mail from UI. It will show what you owe and give you instructions on how to make your payment. If you can't pay the whole amount at once, call 444-3783 and ask to speak to the overpayment unit to set up a payment plan.

Q: What form of payment will you accept?

A: You can mail us a personal check, along with your overpayment notice, or you can use your credit/debit card. To pay using a card, you must call 444-3783 and ask for the overpayment unit. We hope to offer online credit/debit payment options later this year.

Q: I just received an Unemployment Insurance benefit check in the mail. Should I mail it back?

A: No. Deposit the check into your account. Mailing the check back will complicate the process.

Q: If I add up the weekly benefit payments I received while furloughed, is that what my overpayment will be?

A: Not necessarily. If you had federal income taxes withheld from your UI benefit, you will have to pay back both the benefit amount received and the amount withheld for taxes. The same is true if you had other deductions taken from your UI benefit payment, such as child support; your overpayment will include the amount you received, plus the amount redirected for child support.