

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CLAIMANTS: REFUSALS OF SUITABLE WORK OR RECALL TO WORK**

Unemployment benefits claimants must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive payments. If you currently receive unemployment benefits, you are required to be able and available for suitable work. This includes offers from your employer to return to work after you were laid off due to COVID-19.

In Pennsylvania, Section 402(a) of the Unemployment Compensation (UC) Law states in part, "a claimant shall be ineligible for benefits for any week in which his or her unemployment is due to a failure, without good cause, to accept an offer of suitable work."

**In other words, if you are receiving unemployment benefits you must have a good-cause reason to turn down a job offer or refuse a recall by your employer to return to work. If you do not have a good-cause reason, you could lose unemployment benefits. You may also incur an overpayment.**

It's important to note if you have a date to return to work and you fail to do so, your reason for separation will be adjudicated and changed to a voluntary quit, not a refusal of work.

Below, you will find important information related to suitable work. **Visit [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov) to learn more.**

**Suitable work** is all of the work you are capable of performing. When determining whether work is suitable for you, the Office of Unemployment Compensation Benefits will consider the degree of risk involved to your health, safety, and morals. We will also consider:

- Your physical fitness
- Your reason for being unemployed
- The length of time you have been unemployed
- The permanency of your residence
- The condition of the labor market in general, and within your usual trade or occupation
- Your prior training and experience
- Your previous earnings
- The distance of available work from your residence
- The prospect of obtaining work in your occupation

Work is **not** considered **suitable** if:

- The position offered is vacant due directly to a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute.
- The wages, hours or other conditions are substantially less than those for similar work in the area.
- You are required to join a union or refrain from joining any bona fide labor organization.

You cannot be disqualified from receiving benefits if:

- You are not required to accept the offer of work pursuant to a labor-management agreement or an established employer plan.
- You are in training that is approved under section 236(a) of the Trade Act of 1974.
- You refused the offer of work while unemployed and before you filed an application for benefits.

**If you are found ineligible because you refused an offer of work or a recall to work, you have the right to appeal the determination. Please follow the appeal instructions included with your determination letter.**

Regulation § 65.62 provides that a claimant who has been determined ineligible for compensation under the provisions of section 402(a) of the PA UC Law shall remain ineligible for compensation until he or she obtains subsequent employment which is not of a temporary or casual nature.