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Dear Members,

Here are the updates from the PRLA (including a statement from Governor Tom Wolf) and Senator John Gordner. There is also information regarding business signage. We will continue to send updates as we receive them. If your business has updated hours or information, please make sure to let us know so we can post that information to our [Business Update](#) page. Email itour@cmvb.com with your information.

Your Friends at the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau

From the PRLA:

May 7, 2020

The Latest:

- In response to yesterday's testimony at the Senate's PLCB hearing, Committee Chair Stefano, President Pro Tempore Scarnati, and Majority Leader Corman [sent a letter](#) to the PLCB chairman requesting an explanation as to why PLCB operations were shut down.
- Tomorrow, 24 counties move from the red phase into the yellow phase. The Governor's Administration [updated its FAQ document](#) in advance of these changes.
- Gov. Wolf said during today's press conference that he will announce on Friday the next counties to move into yellow phase.
- The National Restaurant Association yesterday [submitted a letter](#) to Secretary of Labor Scalia to urge regulatory action by the Department to mitigate potential WARN Act on employers.

From Senator John Gordner:

**Unemployment Assistance for Self
Employed Now Available**

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

Who Should File?

- Self-employed;
- Independent contractors;
- Gig workers;
- Limited work history, No Remaining Regular or Extended UC Benefits.

Proof of Employment or Self-Employment

- Copies of recent paycheck stubs
- Bank receipts showing deposits;
- 1099s
- Billing notices provided to customers;
- Recent advertisements for your business
- Statements from recent customers;
- Current business licenses, ledgers, contracts, invoices or building leases.

Proof of Previous Income

- Tax returns
- Paycheck stubs
- Bank receipts
- Ledgers
- Contracts
- Invoices or Billing statements.

Additional \$600 Per Week

Individuals collecting PUA benefits will also be eligible for the extra \$600 per week. Payments effective week ending 4/4 through the week ending 7/25. Automatic payment, backdated and paid in one lump sum.

I am pleased to inform you that eligible self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers and others not normally eligible for regular unemployment compensation (UC) can now begin filing backdated claims at the new [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) website](#).

Here is some important information about the new PUA system:

Backdated PUA Claims and Payments

- PUA claims can be backdated to January 27, 2020 or to the first week you were unemployed due to COVID-19, whichever of the two dates is later.
- The system will backdate your claim to when you first became unemployed, as reported by you when you enter your last day of work.
- You will NOT receive a confirmation email after submitting your initial PUA claim. Your determination information will be available in your dashboard on the PUA [website](#).
- Payments will be made in one lump sum either via [direct deposit or to a UC-issued debit card](#) through U.S. Bank, whichever method you chose when you applied.
- If you're eligible, approved and have no issues with your PUA claim, you should receive your first lump sum payment within one week or less after filing backdated claims.

Weekly Certifications and Payments

- Moving forward, claimants **MUST** file their PUA certifications **WEEKLY** to get paid. You will receive a one-week grace period if you miss filing your weekly certification.
- An unemployment week is Sunday through Saturday, so the first day you can file your weekly certification is on a Sunday.
- You don't have to file on Sunday – you can file your weekly certification any day Sunday through Friday.
- You can't file for future weeks, only for the prior week(s).
- Your very first payment – whether it's the backdated lump sum payment or a

- regular weekly payment – will arrive within one week or less after you file your first certification.
- Your regular weekly payments will arrive within three business days after you file your weekly certification.
 - The maximum weekly PUA benefit rate is \$572. The minimum weekly amount is \$195.

Additional \$600 per Week Payments

- If you receive PUA payments, you will **automatically** receive an extra \$600 per week through the [Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation \(FPUC\)](#) program.
- You will receive your first FPUC payment the week **after** your first PUA payment. You will receive your PUA and FPUC payments separately.
- FPUC benefits are for the week ending April 4, 2020 through the week ending July 25, 2020. These payments will also be backdated and paid in one lump sum.

Important Information About the Newly Completed PUA Website

- You can refer to the [PUA System Guide](#) or the following helpful screenshot guides to guide you through the process:
 - [PUA Weekly Certification Filing Guide](#)
 - [Part-time Job – PUA Weekly Certification Filing Guide](#) – Use this guide if you have part-time earnings to report.
- You do **NOT** need a Personal Identification Number (PIN) – you will have a username and password that you create.
- Manage everything through your PUA dashboard on the website through www.uc.pa.gov/PUA – check on your claim and payment status, upload documents, etc.
- Currently, questions about your claims should be emailed to UCPUA@pa.gov. You should expect to receive a response within 7 days. This email address is for PUA questions only. Any emails unrelated to PUA will not receive a response.
- A new phone line will soon be available as well – please continue to check www.uc.pa.gov/PUA.

Applications Still Being Accepted for PUA Benefits

- If you haven't yet applied for PUA benefits and are eligible, please apply [online](#).
- Eligible individuals who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 include:
 - Self-employed;
 - Independent contractors;
 - Gig workers;
 - Clergy and those working for religious organizations; and
 - People without sufficient work history to qualify for regular UC.

PUA Benefits

In general, PUA:

- Provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits;
- May not be more than the state's maximum weekly benefit rate for regular UC of \$572;
- May not be less than half of the state's average weekly benefit amount of \$195.
- Payments will be backdated to January 27, 2020 or the first week you were unable to work due to COVID-19 (whichever of the two dates is later); and
- Benefits will not be payable for weeks of unemployment after December 31, 2020.

Information Needed to Show Previous Income

Acceptable documentation of wages earned or paid during calendar year 2019 can include, but is not limited to:

- 2019 tax returns;
- 2019 1099s;
- Paycheck stubs;

- Bank receipts;
- Ledgers;
- Contracts;
- Invoices; and/or
- Billing statements.

****REQUIRED WORKPLACE SIGNAGE*******

<https://www.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Reopening-Businesses-Flyer-8-5x14-1.pdf>

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf

[Signage for Customers at Entrance](#)



Virtual Brochure Rack



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- Our Annual Visitors Guide
- Covered Bridge Driving Tour Map
- Homegrown in the Valleys Agritourism Map
- Antiquing Guide
- Historical Walking Tour Brochures for Berwick, Bloomsburg & Danville

Find it at www.itourcolumbiamontour.com/brochures/



Upcoming Events

To view a complete listing of upcoming events for Columbia & Montour Counties, please visit our [online Calendar of Events!](#)

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