

PUA Eligibility for Caregivers Impacted by Schools Closing or Reopening

Three Eligibility Scenarios

Under TWC's [Guidance to Unemployment Claimants](#) and the [CARES Act](#), you may have good cause to refuse suitable work and you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) if you are the primary caregiver for a child who is unable to attend a school or daycare that has been closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and you have no reasonable alternative.

The Department of Labor has issued additional guidance about PUA eligibility for caregivers affected by school systems re-opening. See Unemployment Insurance Program Letter [16-20, Change 3](#).

This guidance includes three scenarios for parents and caregivers affected by school systems reopening.

Scenario #1: If the school system only provides online instruction, it is considered closed under the [CARES Act](#). You may be eligible for PUA if you must stay home and take care of your child. However, if you can telework from home with pay, you may be ineligible for PUA unless you are primarily responsible for your child's schooling.

Scenario #2: If the school system provides a hybrid learning environment where students attend school in person some days of the week and attend online classes at home the other days of the week, it is considered closed under the [CARES Act](#). You may be eligible for PUA if you must stay home and take care of your child. However, if you can telework from home with pay, you may be ineligible for PUA unless you are primarily responsible for your child's schooling.

Scenario #3: If the school system gives students the option to attend school in person or attend online classes at home, it is considered open under the [CARES Act](#). If you choose to have your child attend online classes at home, you are ineligible for PUA unless you meet one of the following COVID-19 related reasons under items (aa) through (kk) in Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of the [CARES Act](#):

- My place of employment closed
- Unable to reach my place of employment because of quarantine or shelter-in-place order
- Ordered by medical provider or health official to self-quarantine
- Diagnosed with or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
- Unable to begin or reach my new job due to the closure or shelter-in-place-order
- Quit my job due to COVID-19
- Family member was diagnosed with COVID-19

- Providing care to family member of my household who was diagnosed with COVID-19
- Unable to work due to closure of my child's school or childcare facility
- Became breadwinner or major support of household due to the death of the head of household

If you must stay home because you are the primary caregiver for your child, you may be eligible for paid leave benefits under [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#). See the U.S. Department of Labor's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about the additional leave provided under the FFCRA. If you are receiving paid leave, you are ineligible for PUA.