

## Unemployment question--Returning to work, and closing your Unemployment Claim

Question from [Mary Zienty of Bridge Communities](#):

What happens as clients begin going back to work. Many will return on a part time basis. What will happen with their unemployment. They stand to lose quite a bit by going back to work if they lose all their benefits. Any information on this transition would be so helpful!

Response from Doug Potts of IDES:

On page 12 of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Handbook it states:

“When You Return to Work Notify IDES Claimant Services as soon as possible, but not later than 14 days after the day you were supposed to certify. You may also report your return to work when certifying. If you report in person, tell the claims representative the date you started work and the name, address and phone number of your employer”

Here is how to do this:

When a client returns to work, they will need to keep track of the gross wages earned for each week.

When they certify for benefits, they will need to report the gross wages earned in each week to us, even though they may not yet have been paid.

This will close out the UI claim properly.

For example:

Doug has a weekly benefit amount from unemployment of \$ 200

He gets called back to work on 6/11/2020. He works 6-11 to 6-13 for 20 hours. He earns 9.00 per hour. For week ending 6/13/2020 Doug earns \$180 gross wages.

He works 6-14 to 6-20 for 25 hours. He earns \$225 gross wages.

Doug now has to certify for his unemployment on 6/22/2020.

For the question “Did you work?” Doug answers “Yes”

The system then asks “If yes, enter the total amount of earnings (before deductions) for each week”.

For the week ending 6/13/2020 Doug enters \$180.00#. The system asks “Are you still working” he answers “Yes”

He then does the same thing for week ending 6/20/2020.

When the amount of \$225 is entered for WE 6/20/200, the claim will automatically close, because it is over the weekly benefit amount.

The first week though will STILL pay out, because is it under the weekly benefit amount by \$20 ( \$200 UI benefit amount - \$180 earnings)

I hope this helps.