



Labor & Employment Issues Client Alert

Pitta LLP
For Clients
May 5, 2020 Edition



**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,
the sharing of benefits and burdens
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,
sharing one another’s blessing
recognizing that at the heart of the matter
we are bound to each other.”**

-Mario M. Cuomo-

NYS DOL: UNEMPLOYED MUST CERTIFY WEEKLY TO RECEIVE BENEFITS

On May 4, 2020, New York State Department of Labor (“DOL”) Commissioner Roberta Reardon said that some of unemployed New Yorkers are not receiving their unemployment benefits because they have not certified. Over the weekend the DOL notified 90,000 New Yorkers eligible for unemployment benefits and instructed them on how to certify.

Federal law requires people receiving unemployment benefits to certify each week that they are unemployed. Record levels of unemployment, as well as delays at the postal service has resulted in many New Yorkers not receiving notice from the DOL on how to certify each week. Commissioner Reardon also stated that DOL prefers online certification, although phone certification continues to be available.

This is a link to the DOL’s guidance on certifying for unemployment benefits: <https://dol.ny.gov/unemployment/certify-weekly-unemployment-insurance-benefits>.

Since March 9, 2020 the DOL has processed more 1.6 million unemployment applications and paid out \$4.6 billion in benefits.

NYC TO START STOCKPILING PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT AND DISTRIBUTING MATERIALS TO NEW YORKERS

On May 4, 2020, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that for the first time since March, New York City is beginning the week with enough personal protection equipment (“PPE”) to get its hospitals through the week. The Mayor said that once the City is able to get a two-week supply on hand, it will begin stockpiling supplies in a new strategic reserve. The City aims to have a 90-day supply of PPE on hand and will try to obtain as much of it as possible from local manufacturers.

The Mayor also announced that this week his administration will distribute PPE to nursing homes. Nursing homes will receive 1.9 million surgical masks, 170,000 face shields, 760,000 gloves, 173,000 surgical gowns, 15,000 coveralls and aprons and 10,000 shoe coverings.

Mayor de Blasio said that the Department of Education (“DOE”) has distributed iPads to every public-school student that requested one for remote learning for a total of roughly 255,000 devices. The City will begin to distribute iPads to private school students with disabilities. It expects to distribute another 35,000 devices.

Mayor de Blasio also announced that the City will distribute 7.5 million free face masks to New Yorkers to help them practice social distancing. The masks will be distributed at parks, NYCHA developments, affordable housing buildings, food distribution sites and the Staten Island Ferry.

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