

As we are closing in on one year of unemployment there are some things to keep in mind.

One HUGE change is **TESTING STIPENDS**. While we were originally told these are not wages (but were taxable income), and did not have to be reported on your unemployment **THIS HAS CHANGED** as of FRIDAY. You **MUST** report testing on unemployment or don't file for unemployment that week. I am trying to see how we deal with the fact we are just now getting this ruling. I do not have an answer yet – more when it comes in. If you are unsure if you are going to receive a testing stipend, don't file for that week until it actually comes in. The system does allow you to miss one week and you can do the catch up the next week. I'm working on a blanket appeal.

Many of you saw this message this week when you filed your weekly certification.

The benefit year of this claim ends on 03/13/2021. After this date, you will be able to file one last week. Altogether, you can make 3 more weekly certifications on this claim (provided you have a remaining balance and meet the eligibility requirements).

If you're still unemployed after this period, you can apply for a new claim; but, please remember to file the final week BEFORE you file the new claim.

Translation: The week of March 14-20, file your weekly certification to report your unemployment claim like you usually would to report the week ending 3/13/2021. When you finish, **DO NOT** press any button that says to refile your claim immediately. I will send out instructions hopefully on the 15th that details how to refile your claim so you still have record of your 2020 claim. You will need to file a new claim by 3/20/21 to be able to continue on with your claim. This is going to be a BIG mess since they have yet to pass additional legislation to extend unemployment benefits & you won't have much in wages for the period they will be looking at which will be October 2019 – September 2020. There will probably be 20,000 people who doing the same thing and they will have to process the claims as quickly as possible.

There have been lots of random glitches and they have been slowly figuring them out.

If you worked and earned wages, attached are my best instructions for reporting that work. Unless you receive notice from the employer, you are still employed by them. It is possible to be still employed, but not work any hours.

I hope all of you have remained warm through this latest storm. If you are in need of assistance, please reach out to any of us here at the office, or to www.iatsecares.org. The site includes resources for making a plan and how you can help out with your IATSE family. These storms are a constant reminder to be weather aware and be prepared. If you do not have a hurricane and other storm plan, please put one together.