



Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

P.O. Box 9046 • Olympia WA 98507-9046

July 11, 2020

Dear employer,

Greetings!

Here is your Statement of Benefit Charges

Enclosed is your Statement of Benefit Charges for the second quarter of 2020. Before reviewing it, please read this letter thoroughly. It contains important information about how imposter fraud affects your benefit charges.

Most importantly – please know that **you are not responsible for benefit charges for fraudulent claims and your experience rating will not be impacted by unemployment imposter fraud.** (Unemployment imposter fraud is when someone illegally applies for unemployment benefits using stolen personal information).

We especially want to make sure you are not surprised if you see some benefit charges on your statement that correlate with fraudulent claims that you reported to us through our fraud reporting portal. While we have flagged those claims to stop payments to those fraudulent accounts, we are still processing them. So, some might still show up on your statement.

Note: We considered delaying sending this statement to you until we could make those changes but decided not to postpone it. We want you to have your statement in time to apply for the benefit charge offset for legitimate benefit charges, if you choose to apply. See below for introductory information about this state offset program.

Clearing your account of imposter fraud and checking the list

If you submitted to us a list of your employees who are victims of imposter fraud, thank you! We're processing what you submitted. **Please don't resubmit the list.**

Important! Action requested: Please check your statement and, if you see an employee who should not be there and who you haven't already reported to us, follow the instructions in the **Employers** section of esd.wa.gov/fraud.

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New monthly and annual reports

To give you a more accurate picture of your benefit charges this year, we are, starting in August, sending monthly Statement of Benefit Charges instead of quarterly. We will also produce a new annual benefit charge report that accounts for and excludes the fraudulent claims.

Good news for SharedWork employers

If you participate in the SharedWork Program, we have removed from your statement any charges for weeks your employees were enrolled in your SharedWork plan, as per the federal CARES Act.

SharedWork helps businesses avoid layoffs and ease into opening by paying employees partial unemployment benefits when their work hours are reduced. If you're interested, you can learn more at esd.wa.gov/SharedWork. It's especially appealing because, under the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program, SharedWork employees receive an additional \$600/week. FPUC runs through July 25 but could be extended by the Federal Government.

More good news: You can apply to offset some of your quarter one and two benefit charges

A state law passed that allots \$25 million to the relief of benefit charges. You will be able to apply to offset some of your benefit charges instead of charging them to your experience rating. If we approve your application, the offset could lower your 2021 tax rate.

You're eligible to apply if we paid unemployment benefits in the first two quarters of 2020 to your employees who:

- Were temporarily laid off as a direct or indirect consequence of COVID-19, and
- Returned to work for you after the layoff.

We're currently finalizing the application and will send it to you soon with instructions. More information, including what you'll need to complete the application, can be found here: esd.wa.gov/employer-taxes.

Questions?

We understand you might be worried about paying taxes when the economy has been so uncertain. We're committed to doing our part to ease this anxiety. We hope the information in this letter helps. If you have questions about this letter, please reach out to our Account Management Center staff. Call them at 855-829-9243 or send an email to olympiaAMC@esd.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Suzan G. LeVine
Commissioner
Employment Security Department

Comment from WFIA: Make sure that your company is responding to this quarterly letter from ESD and report your COVID claims that were no fault of your own to receive all, or partial, relief of charging.