

Government Relations Committee Notice posted 3/22/2020:

AMTA NJ Massage Therapist

This is for your information only.

If you are filing for claims online the following information may be helpful and cut down on some of your frustration. This information was forwarded to our Government Relations Chair Cynthia Sinicropi-Philibosian.

We are all in this Together!

State labor department assigns website access times as unemployment claims surge

By Sam Sutton

03/21/2020 01:08 PM EDT

The state Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced a plan this morning to help keep its website afloat as the massive economic upheaval caused by the coronavirus pandemic overloads its system, hurting the agency's ability to process claims.

The department announced it is setting up a schedule for when residents can claim benefits that is based on the last four digits of their Social Security number "due to high volume," [according to a tweet](#). The new schedule starts on Sunday.

Gov. Phil Murphy on Monday told reporters during his daily coronavirus briefing the labor department experienced a 12-fold increase in the number of applications for jobless benefits. The volume crashed the state's website for its online application, and state officials expect even more claims to come in the next few days and weeks as more businesses shut their doors in adherence to New Jersey's social distancing rules.

On Friday, Murphy, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf told the Trump administration they would need \$100 billion from the federal government to provide "direct, and immediate, financial infusion to states to help cover our operations."

"Without this funding, we will be forced to make incredibly difficult choices in light of our new fiscal reality," the governors wrote. "We share your deep concern for the economic security of all of our residents. But make no mistake: [if states do not receive immediate financial support with sufficient flexibility to address our unique fiscal challenges](#), the principal impact will be borne by the millions of Americans who reside in our state."