CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

1. **What programs are offered to assist businesses to keep workers during COVID-19?**

   Partial Employment (for reduction in hours): If you are temporarily reducing hours of work for your full-time employees, they may be able to receive unemployment insurance benefits without needing to look for work.

2. **If I need to temporarily shut down my business due to a possible COVID-19 contamination or quarantine at the worksite, can I receive relief from benefit charges?**

   If you are a taxable employer, unemployment insurance benefits paid pursuant to section 101(c) of the COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 shall not be charged to the experience rating of employer accounts.

3. **What if I need to temporarily lay off employees due to a slowdown of business which is not directly linked to COVID-19?**

   In this scenario, standard District of Columbia UI law will be applied as it relates to claimant eligibility for UI benefits and associated employer charges.

4. **What if I am late in filing tax reports, paying taxes, or responding timely to requests for information as a result of COVID-19?**

   On a case-by-case basis, financial penalties assessed to delinquent employers may be waived, if the delays are a result of COVID-19 impacts.

5. **What will happen to my employees if I go out of business due to impacts from COVID-19?**

   In this scenario, standard District of Columbia UI law will be applied as it relates to claimant eligibility for UI benefits and associated employer charges. If you lay off employees due to a permanent closure, they can apply for UI benefits. Eligibility will be determined based upon criteria in place prior to COVID-19, and on a case-by-case basis.

6. **Where can I find additional resources for businesses?**

   - https://www.does.dc.gov
   - https://coronavirus.dc.gov/
   - Not eligible for unemployment insurance compensation because you are self-employed or an independent contractor? You may qualify for assistance under the public health emergency small business grant program. Visit https://coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery-business for more information.
   - https://essp.does.dc.gov/