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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ASKS EMPLOYERS FOR FIRST QUARTER WAGE REPORTS;  
OFFERS FLEXIBILITY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND PENALTIES**

Montpelier – The Department of Labor reminds employers that first quarter wage reports are due on April 30, 2020. Timely submittal will assist the Department in ensuring that Vermonters applying for unemployment will receive benefits. In addition to first quarter wage reports, first quarter unemployment tax contributions are also due on April 30.

“Wage reports provide the information necessary for our Unemployment Insurance Division to accurately calculate a claimant’s weekly benefit amount,” said Director Cameron Wood. “A delay in reporting can cause a potential delay in benefits for claimants.”

“The Department wants to help ensure accurate benefit amounts are paid to Vermonters, but we also recognize this is an unprecedented time, and support is needed for employers. Whether it is flexibility on contributions or waiving certain penalties, the Department stands ready to provide support”, said interim Commissioner Michael Harrington.

**FLEXIBILITY ON QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS**

In addition to wage reports, quarterly employer contributions are also due on April 30. While employers that are able to make contribution payments are encouraged to do so, the Department is offering flexible payment options for businesses who cannot meet the contribution deadline and are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

**WAIVING OF EMPLOYER PENALTIES**

The Department of Labor is waiving penalties employers may have received for delays in providing separation forms and wage verification requests. If an employer has received a penalty in error, or believes it should be waived, they may submit the request for waiver by filling out an online request form at <https://labor.vermont.gov/form/penalty-waiver-request-form>.

For further updates and information, please visit the Department of Labor website at <https://labor.vermont.gov>.

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