



workforce  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

## Workforce System Response to COVID-19 Clark, Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties July 2, 2020

Things are changing daily, from phased reopening to increasing numbers of people contracting COVID-19, to the order on June 26 making mask-wearing mandatory when unable to physically distance from others.

Changes occurred this week to two programs that impact the workforce. The deadline for applying for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans — which go to businesses with fewer than 500 employees — was extended to August 8. And the job search requirement for individuals receiving unemployment benefits was waived until August 1.

Hoping for more good news in the days to come.

*Kevin Perkey*

Chief Executive Officer

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### Responding to Business Needs

Healthcare has long been considered a recession-proof industry, but no industry is COVID-19 proof. Healthcare continues to be a high-demand sector in growth and employment and is projected to bounce back to full employment as we reopen, and customers start to trust in new community safety guidelines. Keeping the education and employment pipeline intact and leading job seekers into living-wage healthcare careers is vital to the long-term success of the industry.

Not all industries will bounce back as quickly. Businesses related to tourism, food service, hospitality, and retail may have a longer road back to full employment leaving many former employees searching for new careers.

This is an opportunity for the workforce system to infuse new talent into the healthcare industry. By sharing information about healthcare growth, opportunities and career pathways with workers laid off from jobs in the service and hospitality

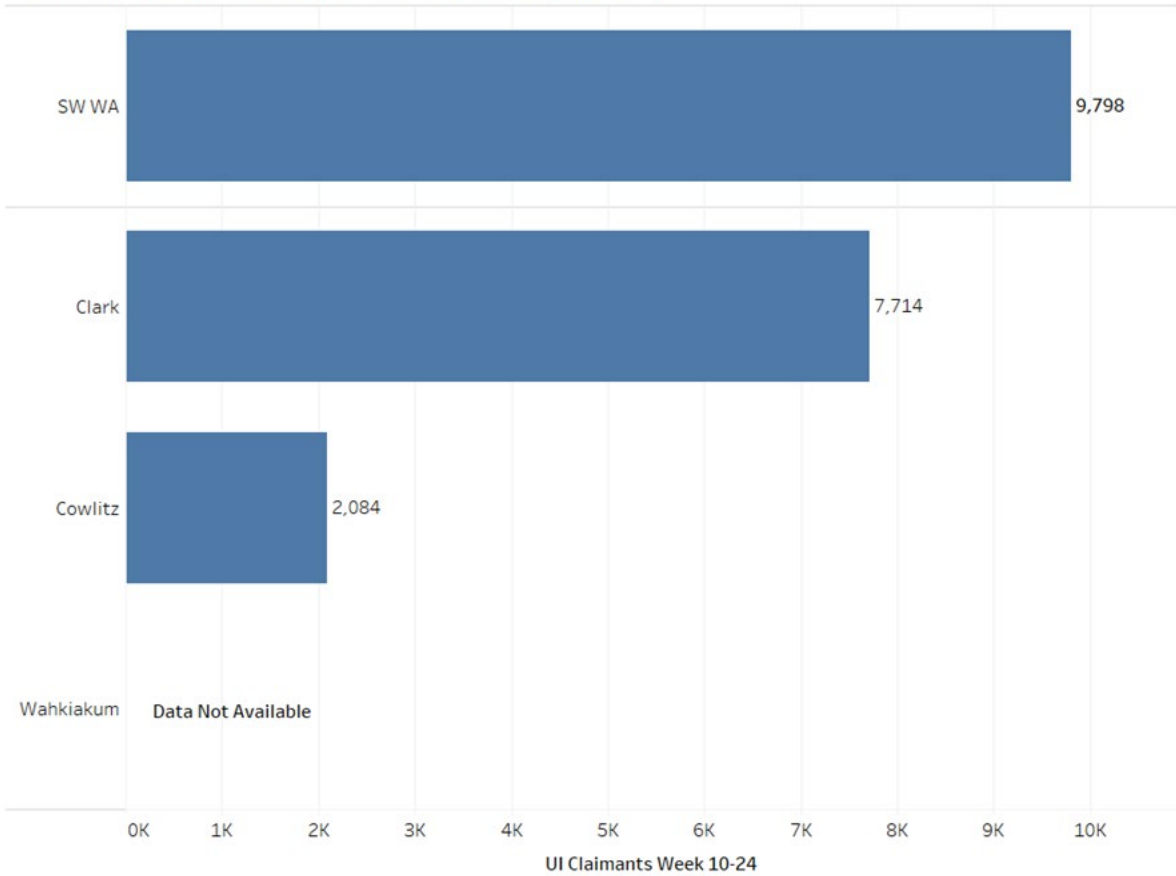
industries and youth who are new to the workforce, we can build a talent pipeline and ensure individuals know about the myriad career options available to them.

We've developed a process to help job seekers from initial inquiry to job placement. [Click here to read more.](#)

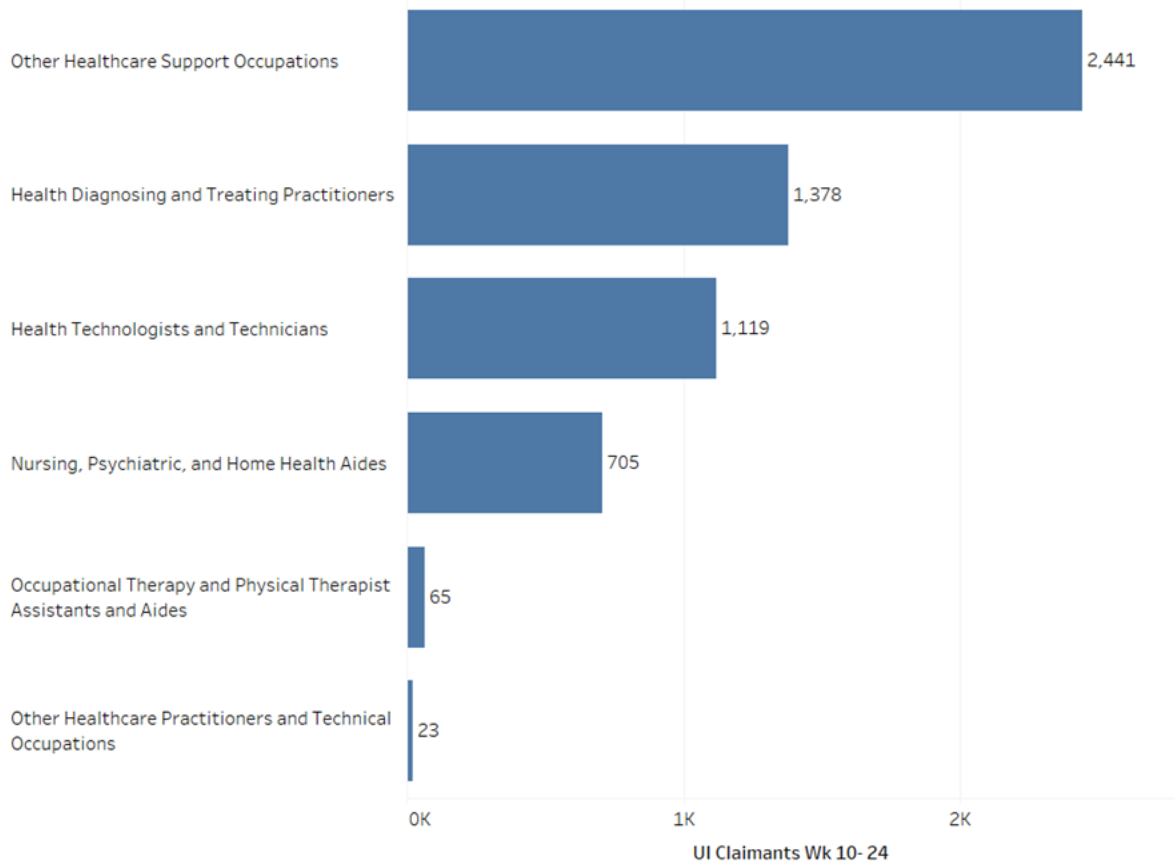
For assistance with your healthcare workforce needs, contact Sean Moore, Senior Project Manager for Healthcare, at [smoore@workforcesw.org](mailto:smoore@workforcesw.org) or 360.762.8569.

## Labor Market: Spotlight on Healthcare

Healthcare UI Claimants Mar. 8 - June 20, 2020 (Wk 10-24)



## SW WA Healthcare UI Claimants by Occupations Mar. 9- Jun. 20, 2020



Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations in SW Washington 2020 Q1														
SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	11,336	\$91,300	0.90	266	1.9%	677	1,481	2.8%	883	316	355	212	1.9%
00-0000	Total - All Occupations	221,717	\$53,700	1.00	13,937	4.8%	8,305	27,265	2.7%	29,075	10,108	16,342	2,626	1.2%

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2020 Q1 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data are as of 2019 and represent the average for all Covered Employment

3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list).

Healthcare Support Occupations in SW Washington 2020 Q1														
SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	11,967	\$34,000	1.24	664	4.3%	424	809	1.4%	1,990	793	850	347	2.9%
00-0000	Total - All Occupations	221,717	\$53,700	1.00	13,937	4.8%	8,305	27,265	2.7%	29,075	10,108	16,342	2,626	1.2%

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# Services for Adults + Youth

## Job search requirements for unemployed waived until August 1

The requirement for individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits to complete "job search" activities is suspended through August 1. Due to the pandemic, the requirements were waived in March but were scheduled to resume July 1.

[Sign up to get alerts](#) when requirements are updated from the [Employment Security Department](#).

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## Reopening Resources

- Beginning June 26, every Washingtonian in an indoor public space, or in an outside public space when unable to physically distance from others, will be legally [required to wear a face covering](#).
- PPE Supplies
  - [AWB PPE Connect](#) – Connects you with manufacturers who supply PPE so you can purchase equipment to safeguard you and your employees.
  - FEMA launched a [PPE exchange dashboard](#) to connect private sector sellers and buyers. *\*Adobe Connect is needed to open the dashboard*
  - Amazon Business [COVID-19 Supplies](#) helps direct health and safety products, such as face shields, personal protective equipment, digital thermometers, exam gloves, sanitizers and wipes to organizations on the front lines of the pandemic.
- The [Employment Security Department](#) has information for businesses and individuals about [returning to work](#) and [refusing to go back to work](#).

**Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW)** funds services that help individuals gain skills to find good-paying jobs or advance in their careers and help companies recruit, train and retain workers. Our investments strengthen the region's businesses and contribute to a strong economy. Since 2003, we've invested more than \$100 million in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. Learn more at [www.workforcesw.org](http://www.workforcesw.org).

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[www.workforcesw.org](http://www.workforcesw.org)

WSW is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Washington Relay 711.