

## Fraud Alert

Dear MMA Unemployment Compensation Fund Members,

We hope that we find you safe and adjusting well to our changing work environments. During this outbreak many of us have had to make important and yet difficult employment decisions which in some situations has resulted in unemployment claims. Please rest assured that the MMA Unemployment Compensation Fund (The Fund) is here to help ensure that the process runs efficiently and properly for our members.

Due to the proactive steps of our Unemployment Coordinator Denise Kolreg, The Fund has identified a disturbing trend. Criminals are using the Coronavirus outbreak as an opportunity to take advantage of our trust and commit acts of fraud in an attempt to obtain unemployment benefits. Therefore, we would like to recommend that following cautionary tips.

If you are notified that you have an employee that has filed for unemployment benefits, we ask that you review the following:

1. Have you been made aware by a department head that the claimant has been laid off or had a reduction of hours?
2. If you have doubt, confirm with the employee that they have actually filed a claim.
3. If you determine that the claim is fraudulent:
  - a. Notify us at The Fund immediately
  - b. Advise your employee to report the fraud to the Maine Department of Labor's Fraud Division at <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/idtheft/> or for further guidance please go to <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/fraud/>
  - c. Monitor claims for legitimacy.

We would also like to take this moment to remind you that if you do receive any documentation from the Maine Department of Labor directly, that you please forward it to us here at the UC Fund so that we can respond accordingly and update your unemployment account appropriately. As always, we thank you for your membership in the MMA Unemployment Compensation Fund and we hope that you and yours stay well.