

# ***How Much Will I Get and Will My Separation Pay Affect My Claim?***

## **New Hampshire Employment Security Video Script**

Hi, I'm Greg from New Hampshire Employment Security.

Separation pay, can be complicated. In New Hampshire, benefits may be reduced if you receive, or expect to receive, separation pay.

It's important to determine the best time to file your claim, based on the amount of separation pay you have or will receive. It's up to you when you open your claim. Opening a claim establishes several important parts of the claim.

The effective date of the claim is usually the Sunday of the week the claim is filed. This will be the starting date of a benefit year. Using the effective date, a Base Period is established. Wages you earned in the base period are used to determine if a Weekly Benefit Amount, or WBA, can be established, and how much it will be. The maximum amount a person is eligible for in a Benefit Year is 26 times the Weekly Benefit Amount.

The Department sends you a monetary determination with the Weekly and Maximum Benefit Amounts for the Benefit Year. For more information about certain documents you will receive as part of the claim process, please view Segment #6: *How Do I Know If My Claim is Approved and How Much I'll Receive?*

Separation pay is critical factor to consider when deciding the best time to file a claim. The quarter in which you open your claim is very important. If exhausting your severance allows you to open your claim in a different quarter of a benefit year, it can be advantageous. If you receive a large separation package that is equivalent to many months of pay, I recommend you visit [www.nhes.nh.gov](http://www.nhes.nh.gov) to review the information provided in the "Amount and Duration of Benefits" link. To find this information, click "Claimant" at the top of the page, and then choose "File for Benefits". On the new

screen presented, choose the “Amount and Duration of Benefits” link on the left side of the page.

If you are unable to decide when to file your claim on your own, after reading this document and comparing it to your personal circumstances, please visit your local NHWorks Office.

In summary, when you open your claim is one of the most important decisions you to make about your claim. I urge you, please take advantage of the resources and information available from New Hampshire Employment Security.