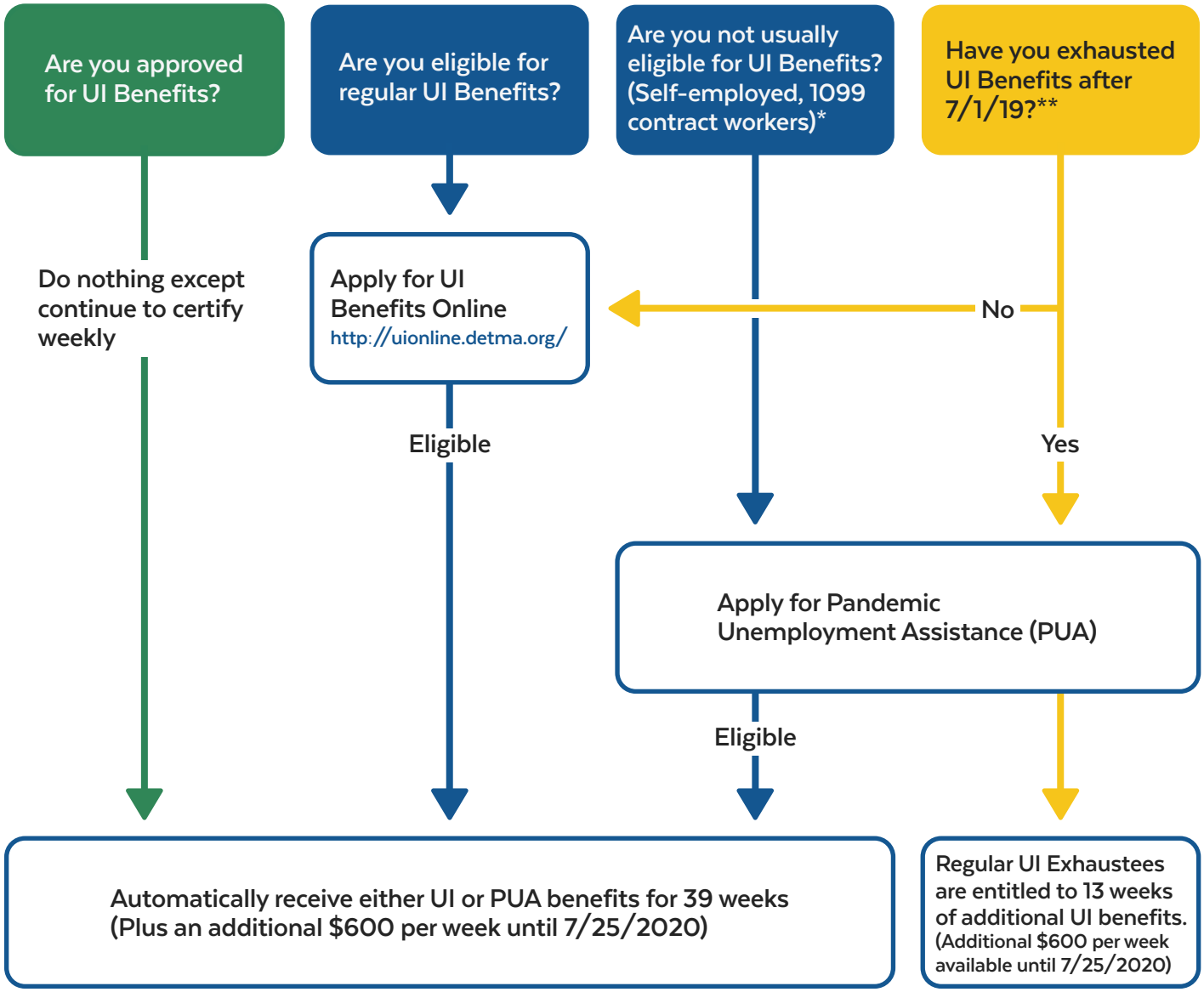
COVID-19

What you need to know and do about the CARES Act

The federal CARES Act was signed into law March 27, 2020. The Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for Massachusetts workers.

Start here



Don't know where to start? Apply for UI Benefits first. If you don't qualify, try applying for PUA.

* *People traditionally ineligible for unemployment benefits may be self-employed, gig workers, or independent contractors. Other examples include earning less than $5100 in the last year, or having no right to regular unemployment, either because you were denied, or you worked for a religious organization.*

** *This group may qualify for PEUC at a later date. PEUC is Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation. That's the 13 week extension for people who were previously collecting unemployment but have used up all of their benefits, or whose benefit year ended after July 1, 2019.*

For more information visit mass.gov/dua

Filing for UI benefits by phone is based on the last digit of your Social Security Number.
0,1 file on Monday | 2,3 file on Tuesday | 4,5,6 file on Wednesday | 7,8,9 file on Thursday | Any digit file on Friday