

Update 12/20/21: The mandatory payroll tax for the WA CARES Fund has been suspended until further notice. Employee communications will be provided once the details and changes to the program are finalized by the State of Washington.

WA CARES FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On December 17, 2021, a decision was made by Governor Inslee along with state lawmakers to pause the WA CARES Fund mandatory payroll tax that was scheduled to begin on January 1, 2022. There will likely be many questions from employees and employers regarding the impacts of this decision but as of now there are few details. Once more information is provided by the State of Washington it will be communicated with employees in a timely manner.

Q. How does this change impact employees?

The WA CARES Fund mandatory payroll tax has now been put on hold until further notice. This means that employees will not be required to pay the mandatory payroll tax at this time.

Q. When will more information become available?

The information from the State of Washington does not currently provide a timetable.

Q. How does this delay impact those employees that applied for an exemption from the WA Cares Fund program?

It is unclear how this delay impacts employees who have applied or been approved for an exemption. Employees that have been approved for an exemption by the Employment Security Department (ESD) may continue to send in their exemption letters to King County. The county will keep exemption letters that have already been submitted or are submitted in the future until more information is provided by the State of Washington.

Q. Has the process for submitting approved exemption letters to King County changed?

No. Employees may continue submitting approved exemption letters to King County.

- Email: WA.CARES.Exemption.Letters@kingcounty.gov
- US Mail: 401 Fifth Ave CNK-HR-0230, Seattle, WA, 98104

Q. Who should I contact with questions?

The best source for information is the State of Washington's website: <http://www.wacaresfund.wa.gov/>.