

WCB's Response to COVID-19

The novel (new) Coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a public health emergency and has been declared a pandemic with significant implications for communities and workplaces.

The following are guidelines to assist employers and workers as it relates to COVID-19 in the workplace. Information within is relevant to all provinces and territories within Canada.

COVID-19 Related Claims

Claims submitted for COVID-19 contracted through a work-related exposure are adjudicated on a case-by-case basis. To be accepted, evidence must show that the infection arose out of and in the course of employment and the risk of contracting the disease through employment is greater than the risk associated with contracting it through day to day living.

Work Related Example: Acute care hospital worker, who is treating patients who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

This example represents a worker who is at greater risk than the general public of contracting the disease.

Workers who are quarantined, self-isolating or sent home on a precautionary basis are not covered as a work-related absence. It is recommended that you consider government programs that may be available to cover wage loss for these circumstances.

Existing/Ongoing Claims

Anyone on an existing/ongoing claim will continue to receive benefits as entitled.

Interruption in rehabilitation due to closures, self-isolation, quarantining, etc. are expected at this time however workers are encouraged to contact their case worker to discuss.

Workers in receipt of benefits who are not yet set up on direct deposit are urged to complete appropriate application in order to avoid delay in receipt of benefits.



Worker Responsibility

Observe the “Right to Refuse Unsafe Work” which means workers have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard.

Employer Responsibility

Every employer shall ensure, as far as reasonably practicable for the employer to do so, the health and safety and welfare of workers.

Enforce Best Practices

- Practice Physical Distancing
- Wash Hands Frequently
- Sneeze/Cough into Elbow
- Stay Home if Sick (Fever/Cough)
- Support Work from Home (as applicable)
- Avoid Touching Face
- Increase Housekeeping/Sanitization Practices

Get the latest information, guidance and resources on Coronavirus (COVID-19) to help you protect what matters most at hubinternational.com/coronavirus. For additional support, please reach out to your local HUB office.