

# WORKERS COMPENSATION for CONTRACTING COVID-19 in the WORKPLACE

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### ● **Can I open a claim with WorkSafeBC if I contract Covid-19 at work?**

When a worker contracts COVID-19 as a direct result of their employment, they are entitled to compensation if the following conditions are met:

1. There is evidence that the worker has contracted COVID-19. This is typically either:
  - a medical diagnosis, or
  - non-medical factual evidence where other evidence, e.g., a symptom cluster, establishes the existence of COVID-19.
2. The nature of the worker's employment created a risk of contracting the disease significantly greater than the ordinary exposure risk of the public at large.

Claims submitted for COVID-19 contracted through a work-related exposure are adjudicated on a case-by-case basis. WorkSafeBC will look at details such as whether the worker has a diagnosis of COVID-19, their symptoms, and their employment activities.

A presumption in favour of an accepted claim may apply if there is evidence to establish that a worker has COVID-19 and the risk in the workplace was significantly greater than the ordinary exposure risk. **In other words**, if you are at significantly greater risk than the general public of contracting the virus while at work, and you lose time from work after contracting the virus, [please report the claim to WorkSafeBC](#).

### ● **When do I report a case of COVID-19 to WorkSafeBC?**

- If you contracted COVID-19 and believe you contracted it at work, you are encouraged to report the claim to determine if you are eligible for workers' compensation benefits.
- You can submit a claim as you would with any other workplace injury or disease. See: [How workers report a workplace injury or disease](#).
- Please report your injury or illness as soon as possible.

### ● **Does WorkSafeBC cover people for a quarantine or self-isolation period?**

- No. WorkSafeBC does not provide coverage for people who are symptom free even when quarantined, self-isolating or sent home on a precautionary basis.

### ● **I have received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit (CRCB) and/or the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers. Will they be factored into my average earnings or deducted from my wage-loss benefits if I have a claim?**

- No. The CERB, CRB, CRSB, CRCB, and B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers are benefits, not earnings. These financial benefits are not being provided as payment for labour or services provided and are not considered employment earnings for WorkSafeBC purposes.
- If, during the COVID-19 pandemic, your employment has been significantly disrupted by a closure or your usual earnings have been reduced, WorkSafeBC will consider excluding those time periods when calculating short-term and long-term average earnings on future claims.

### ● **For more claims information relating to WorkSafeBC and Covid-19, click here: [Information for workers](#)**

### ● **If you have any questions or need support, please contact the Health & Safety, Performer Advocate: Lori Stewart: [lori.stewart@ubcpactra.ca](mailto:lori.stewart@ubcpactra.ca)**