



RETROSPECTIVE RATING NEWS

## Workers' comp and COVID-19 exposure

[Click here to read the news release](#) from Governor Jay Inslee and L&I Director Joel Sacks concerning the department's policy on workers' compensation coverage for health care workers and first responders who are quarantined by a physician or public health officer. Under the clarified policy, workers' compensation benefits will be provided to these workers during the time they're quarantined after being exposed to COVID-19 on the job. The policy also applies to others who may have accepted claims for exposure to COVID-19; for example, those who are not considered health care workers but are working in facilities with documented exposures or others whose claims may be approved.

As a reminder, answers to the following questions will be considered for workers who file claims and are not working in jobs or at facilities where exposure would be routinely expected:

- Was there an increased risk or greater likelihood of exposure or contracting the disease due to the worker's occupation (first responders or health care workers)?
- If not for their job, would the worker have been exposed or contracted the condition?
- Can the worker identify a specific source or event during their employment that resulted in exposure to COVID-19?

When exposure to or contraction of the disease is incidental to the workplace or common to all employment (for example, an office worker who may have been exposed through a fellow employee, or a waitress through a customer), the claim will likely be denied.

Thank you.

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### Contact

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