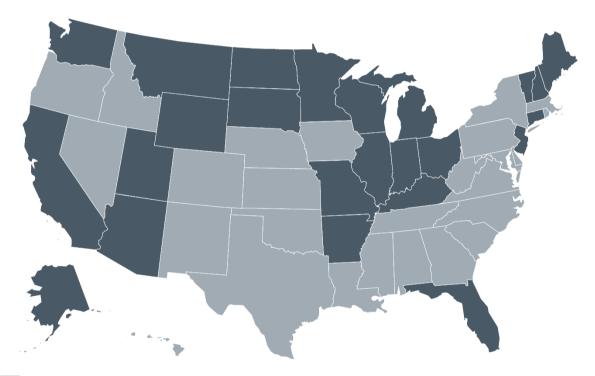


# Coronavirus Update

Last updated: March 31, 2021

## Presumption changes to COVID-19 related Workers' Compensation claims



States with presumption changes to COVID-19 related to workers' compensation claims

#### Alaska: Statute

Occupational disease is included in definition of injury. COVID-19, or Coronavirus, is an illness that if contracted in the workplace, would entitle the affected worker to workers' compensation benefits that may arise from the illness.

The Board would likely require some medical evidence that the worker has contracted the virus. They will also need to show that they contracted it through the conditions of their employment. The Alaska Supreme Court has held that this requirement is intended to bar claims where an employee "has no evidence" that they contracted an illness out of the course of their employment. Employees seeking benefits for Coronavirus would likely need to prevail on one of the two theories of compensability for occupational disease. If the employee can show evidence of direct contact with a person positive for Coronavirus in the workplace, the presumption of compensability will have attached. Or, alternatively, if the employee can show that the condition of their employment exposed them to a greater risk of contracting the disease than the general public, there is also a

good chance that the Board would find a preliminary link between the employment and the disability or need for treatment.

#### Arizona: Law (4/10/2020)

For clients handling COVID exposure allegations in Arizona, the Crawford and Treadway cases hold that in order for a disease to be compensable as arising out of and in the course of employment, there must be a causal connection with the employment, and not a mere coincidental connection, and there must be a clearly established facet of special exposure in excess of that of the "commonalty." These COVID claims are being handled like other infectious disease claims in AZ.

#### Arkansas: Executive Order

The state's governor issued an executive order to temporarily suspend certain portions of the workers' compensation code. The order changes the burden of proof for first responders and front-line healthcare workers who contract COVID-19 on the job. The definition of a front-line healthcare worker includes healthcare professionals who provide: (a) treatment, diagnosis, care, or mitigation of COVID-19; (b) assessment or care of an individual with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19; or (c) otherwise provides services determined by the Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission to mitigate COVID-19 that are consistent with the executive order.

The executive order <u>does not</u> afford a presumption of compensability for these workers. The temporary change to the workers' compensation code is in effect until the state of emergency is lifted or such other time as the Governor may direct in a subsequent executive order.

### California

On September 17, 2020, Governor Newson signed SB 1159 into law. The updated law provides a rebuttable presumption of compensable injury, which applies to a class of employees that includes, but is not limited to: peace officers, firefighters, specified frontline employees, and certain health care employees (as defined and in limited circumstances). It creates presumptions of workers' compensation compensability until January 1, 2023 and applies retroactively to July 6, 2020. The new law also codifies the Executive Order and should not affect already existing claims from prior to July 6, 2020. The employee must test positive or be diagnosed within 14 days after the employee performed services at his/her place of employment, at the employer's direction, between March 19, 2020 and July 5, 2020. The date of injury is considered to be the last date on which the employee performed services at the place of employment. The diagnosis must have been made by a licensed physician and surgeon holding an MD or D.O. degree, or a state licensed P.A. or Nurse Practitioner acting under the review or supervision of a physician or surgeon, within that authorized scope of practice and followed up with a 'serologic test' (antibody test) within 30 days.

#### Rebuttable presumption for safety and medical professions

Section 3 creates a disputable presumption until January 1, 2023 for employees working as a firefighter, peace officer, or as health professionals in the following capacities:

- An employee who provides direct patient care or a custodial employee in contact with COVID-19 patients who works at a health facility
- Employees of health facilities, other than those described above. For these employees, the presumption shall not apply if the employer can establish that the employee did not have contact with a health facility patient within the last 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19.

- An authorized registered nurse, emergency medical technician I, II, or paramedic
- An employee who provides direct patient care for a home health agency
- A provider of in-home supportive services when the services are provided outside their own home or residence

To qualify for this presumption, the worker must receive a positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test (not an antibody test) for COVID-19 within 14 days of working at a place of employment on or after July 6, 2020, and within 14 days of termination of employment. Compensability decisions under Section 3 must be made within 30 days. If the case is not resolved or accepted prior to January 1, 2023, any potential presumption is lost. Requires the use of any COVID-19 related sick leave (under federal or state law), prior to using Temporary Disability benefits. There is not a waiting period for Temporary Disability benefits.

#### Rebuttable presumption for all other employees working outside of the home

Section 4 creates a disputable presumption until January 1, 2023, applying to all other businesses in California that have more than 5 employees. The presumption arises if an outbreak occurred and is defined as follows:

- An outbreak of 4 or more positive tests in a specific place of employment where the employer has 100 employees or fewer
- An outbreak of 4% of employees test positive in a specific place of employment with more than 100 employees
- If the employee works at multiple places at the direction of his/her employer, then the specific location of where an outbreak occurred within 14 days of the positive test is to be considered the 'outbreak' location, and all data from that particular location needs to be analyzed to determine if an outbreak occurred.

Specific place of employment is defined to encourage separation of work units by building, facility, agricultural field, etc. Place of employment does not include an employee's residence. To qualify for this presumption, the worker must receive a positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test (not an antibody test) for COVID-19, within 14 days of working at a place of employment, on or after July 6, 2020, and within 14 days of termination of employment. Compensability decisions must be made within 45 days. Evidence to rebut the presumption can include: showing there were measures in place to reduce potential transmission, and the employee had non-occupational risks of infection.

Employers are required to retroactively report positive tests back to July 6, 2020, to determine if any presumption existed between then and the time the law passes. Requires the use of any COVID-19 related sick leave (under federal or state law) prior to using Temporary Disability benefits. There is not a waiting period for Temporary Disability benefits.

#### Employer duty to report after July 6, 2020

Employer has a new affirmative duty to report to the claims administrator:

- Once the employer "knows or reasonably should know" an employee tested positive for COVID-19, the employer MUST report to the claims administrator within 3 business days all of the following:
- An employee tested positive with a PCR test (not identifying employee by name unless employee asserts the infection was work related).
- Date employee tested positive (date specimen was collected)
- Address of specific place of employment during the 14-day period preceding the positive test
- Highest number of employees who reported to work at the specific place of employment in the 45-day period, preceding the last day the employee worked at each specific place of employment
- False reporting will result in civil penalties.

• Potential \$10,000 fine for failure to report properly

Additionally, the reporting requirement stretches back to July 6th, 2020, for all known Covid-19 positive tests. The bill allows for 30 days to collect the relevant information noted above and report it to the employer. Instead of 45 days to report the highest number of employees, for positive tests before the bill is signed into law, the bill requires reporting of employees working back to July 6th, 2020. The claims administrator has a new affirmative duty to use the above data to determine if an 'outbreak' occurred, for purposes of administering a claim.

#### Connecticut (Executive Order 7/24/2020)

An executive order was created to provide rebuttable presumption for employees who initiates a claim for payment of benefits under the provisions of Chapter 568 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and who missed a day or more of work between March 10, 2020 and May 20, 2020, inclusive, due to a diagnosis of COVID-19, or due to symptoms that were diagnosed as COVID-19, contracted COVID-19 as an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of their employment. The presumption is contingent upon: the employee worked at the direction of the employer, outside the home during at least one of the fourteen days immediately preceding the date of injury and had not received an offer or directive from said employer to work from home instead of from his or her place of employment. The date of injury must also be more than fourteen days after March 23, 2020 and employed by an employer deemed essential by the Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to Executive Order 7H. Finally, the contraction of COVID-19 by such employee was confirmed by a positive laboratory diagnostic test within three weeks of the date of injury or diagnosed and documented within three weeks of the date of injury by a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse, based on the employee's symptoms and provided to the employee or worker's compensation insurer.

The presumption may be rebutted only if the employer or insurer demonstrates to a workers' compensation commissioner by a preponderance of the evidence, that the employment of the individual was not the cause of his or her contracting COVID-19. The executive order will remain in effect until January 24, 2021, unless earlier modified.

### Florida: Directive (4/10/2020)

Florida Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis directed the Division of Risk Management to provide workers' compensation coverage to state employees who are fighting COVID-19. The directive provides coverage for state officials whose responsibilities require them to interface with individuals who are potentially infected with the coronavirus.

### Illinois: Emergency ruling (4/27/2020)

On April 27, 2020, the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission formally withdrew the Emergency Amendment that created a rebuttal presumption that for medical personnel, first responders and essential employees that contract COVID-19 will be presumed to have arisen out of and occurred in the course of their employment and it is presumed to be causally related to their employment. The IWCC cited the ongoing cost of litigation as the basis of the withdrawal. Employers no longer need to be concerned regarding the presumption. It is now up to the General Assembly to modify the Act to include the rebuttable presumption, if so inclined. We will continue to keep you updated on developments.

In any proceeding before the Commission where the petitioner is a COVID-19 First Responder or Front-Line Worker as defined in Section (a)(2), if the petitioner's injury or period of incapacity resulted from exposure to

the COVID-19 virus during a COVID-19-related state of emergency, the exposure will be rebuttably presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the petitioner's COVID-19 First Responder or Front-Line Worker employment and, further, will be rebuttably presumed to be causally connected to the hazards or exposures of the petitioner's COVID-19 First Responder or Front-Line Worker employment. 2) The term "COVID-19 First Responder or Front-Line Worker" means any individuals employed as police, fire personnel, emergency medical technicians, or paramedics and all individuals employed and considered as first responders, health care providers engaged in patient care, correction officers, and the crucial personnel identified under the following headings in Section 1 Part 12 of Executive Order 2020-10 dated March 20, 2020: "Stores that sell groceries and medicine"; "Food, beverage, and cannabis production and agriculture"; "Organizations that provide charitable and social services"; "Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation"; "Financial institutions"; "Hardware and supplies stores"; "Critical trades"; "Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services"; "Educational institutions"; "Laundry services"; "Restaurants for consumption off-premises"; "Supplies to work from home"; "Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations"; "Transportation"; "Home-based care and services"; "Residential facilities and shelters"; "Professional services"; "Day care centers for employees exempted by [Executive Order 2020-10]"; "Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries"; "Critical labor union functions"; "Hotels and motels"; and "Funeral services"."

#### Indiana: Website notice (4/2/2020)

"The agency has received numerous questions regarding worker's compensation coverage for employees who contract Covid-19, particularly those on the front lines. In Indiana, workers' compensation benefits are paid by employers, not the State. Under our laws, the State cannot tell employers they must automatically cover employees who contract Covid-19. Whether an individual contracts the virus in the course and scope of their employment is a determination that must initially be made by the employer.

This decision is routinely made at the time the employee notifies the employer of the injury, or in this case, contraction of the virus.

It is well accepted that first responders, as defined in P.L.113-2020, and health care providers, as defined at IC 16-18-2-163, as well as others directly involved in the provision of services to those exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 are more susceptible to contraction of the disease as a direct result of their work duties. Others whose jobs necessarily entail close interaction with many people in a public setting are also more vulnerable to exposure and possible infection than those working remotely or in a limited office setting."

### Kentucky: Statute

"Communicable disease cases require a very fact specific analysis. The definition of a compensable injury under Kentucky workers' compensation law excludes communicable diseases "unless the risk of contracting the disease is increased by the nature of the employment." Unlike some other jurisdictions, in Kentucky the employee does not necessarily have to show the disease was contracted during employment. Communicable disease cases such as COVID-19 are compensable if the risk of acquiring the disease is greater for the employee than it is for the general public."

#### Maine: Statute

COVID-19 exposure, as is the case with other injuries/illnesses, if an employee who has properly filed a claim can show that an injury/illness happened while at work and because of work, the employee will be entitled to workers' compensation benefits.

### Michigan: Order

Under both proposed legislation and the orders of the state's workers' disability compensation agency, first responders are afforded a rebuttable presumption of eligibility for workers' compensation benefits where the employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 as determined by a physician or as a result of a test. First responders include those working in health facilities or agencies, health care practitioners and professionals, paramedics, police officers, and firefighters. The agency's order is in effect through September 30, 2020.

#### Minnesota: New law (5/17/2020)

On May 17, 2020, the Minnesota Senate passed S.B. 4564, 45 to 22, which would create a fund to assist with the costs to local governments of public safety and health care workers and other employees of health care providers who contract COVID-19.

On April 8, 2020, legislation was created stipulating workers who contracted COVID-19 are presumed to have an occupational disease under the Minnesota workers' compensation law. Qualified worker's include firefighters, paramedics, emergency technicians, licensed peace offices (under Minn. Stat. Sec. 626.84, subd. 1), health care providers, nurses or assistive employees employed in a health care agencies, home care or longterm care setting, with direct COVID-19 patient care or ancillary work in COVID-19 patient units and workers required to provide child care to first responders and health care workers under Executive Order 20-02 and Executive Order 20-19. The employee's contraction of COVID-19 must be confirmed by a positive laboratory test or, if a test was not available for the employee, as diagnosed and documented, based on the employee's symptoms, by a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant or licensed advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). The legislation remains in effect until May 21, 2021.

#### Missouri: Statute

On April 7, 2020, an emergency order was created by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, creating a rebuttable presumption that first responders (as defined in Section 287.243 - <u>https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=287.243</u>) contracting COVID-19 have an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of their employment. Such presumption includes situations where the first responder is quarantined at the direction of the employer due to suspected COVID-19 exposure, or the display of any COVID-19 symptoms, or receives a presumptive positive COVID-19 test, or receives a COVID-19 diagnosis from a physician, or receives a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. The order remains in effect until the state of emergency expires (including extensions).

#### Montana: Statute

In Montana, workers' compensation probably does not cover most workers who might become infected by COVID-19. The exception would likely be for health care and emergency medical services (EMS) workers who would be placed in a higher risk of exposure through their covered employment. To be accepted as a workers' compensation claim, a worker would have to demonstrate that their job put them at significantly greater risk for infection than the risk they have already through daily contact and exposure with the population in general.

#### New Hampshire (Executive Order 6/17/2020)

The state's executive order provides any "First Responder" or Emergency Response Public Safety Worker, as well as any member of the New Hampshire National Guard ordered into active duty status/service, who tests positive for COVID-19 which has been reported to the Department of Health and Human Services, shall have a prima facie presumption that the exposure and infection were occupationally related in proceedings before the New Hampshire Department of Labor or the administratively attached Compensation Appeals Board. "Emergency response/public safety worker" is defined as call, volunteer, or regular firefighters; law enforcement officers certified under RSA 106-L; certified county corrections officers; emergency communication dispatchers; and rescue or ambulance workers including ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer personnel.

The executive orders shall remain in effect for the duration of the issued state of emergency.

#### New Jersey (Legislation 9/14/2020)

NJ SB 2380 was signed into to law on September 14, 2020. The law creates a rebuttable presumption of a fully compensable work-related injury/illness for an individual who contracts COVID-19 during a time period in which the individual is working in a place of employment other than the individual's own residence as a health care worker, public safety worker, or other essential employee. Further, the contraction must occur during the public health emergency declared by an executive order of the Governor and any extension of the order.

"Essential employee" is defined as an employee in the public or private sector who, during a state of emergency who: (1) is a public safety worker or first responder, including any fire, police or other emergency responders; (2) is involved in providing medical and other healthcare services, emergency transportation, social services, and other care services, including services provided in health care facilities, residential facilities, or homes; (3) performs functions which involve physical proximity to members of the public and are essential to the public's health, safety, and welfare, including transportation services, hotel and other residential services, financial services, and the production, preparation, storage, sale, and distribution of essential goods such as food, beverages, medicine, fuel, and supplies for conducting essential business and work at home; or (4) is any other employee deemed an essential employee by the public authority declaring the state of emergency. The presumption may be rebutted by an employer by a preponderance of the evidence showing that the worker was not exposed to the disease while working in the place of employment other than the individual's own residence.

### North Dakota: Executive Order (3/25/2020)

"On March 25, 2020, Governor Burgum issued Executive Order 2020-12 for extending workers' compensation coverage for COVID-19 for first responders and front-line health care providers.

Effective March 13, 2020 first responders, health care workers and all occupations included under NDCC 65-01-02 (11)(b)(1) who are exposed to COVID-19 in the course of employment may file a claim for worker's compensation coverage and may be eligible for up to 14 days of wage replacement and medical coverage if quarantined.

Diseases to which the general public outside of employment are exposed are specifically excluded from workers' compensation coverage in North Dakota. COVID-19 fits into this exclusion. Even though it may be contended an employee contracted COVID-19 while working, the employee is not eligible for workers' compensation benefits for this type of illness."

#### **Ohio: Statute**

"Is COVID-19 a compensable workers' compensation claim?

It depends on how you contract it and the nature of your occupation. Generally, communicable diseases like COVID-19 are not workers' compensation claims because people are exposed in a variety of ways, and few jobs have a hazard or risk of getting the diseases in a greater degree or a different manner than the general public.

However, if you work in a job that poses a special hazard or risk and contract COVID-19 from the work exposure, BWC could allow your claim."

#### South Dakota: Statute

"From South Dakota DLR: Is COVID-19 compensable under workers' compensation?

Maybe. For an employee who is infected with COVID-19 to be covered by workers' compensation, the worker must establish COVID-19 is an "occupational disease" which means that exposure to the disease is something that is an essential part of the job (example: doctor or nurse) and not a result of incidental contact from a job that working with the public is expected (example: cashier or waiter). Further, to be eligible for workers' compensation benefits, an employee must be unable to work for at least 7 consecutive days.

"Occupational disease"" is defined in SDCL 62-8-1(6) as: a disease peculiar to the occupation in which the employee was engaged and due to causes in excess of the ordinary hazards of employment and includes any disease due or attributable to exposure to or contact with any radioactive material by an employee in the course of employment.

Furthermore, according to case law, a "[c]ondition is 'peculiar to a particular occupation,' within workers' compensation statute's definition of a compensable occupational disease, when it is the result of a distinctive feature of the kind of work performed by a claimant and others similarly employed. SDCL 62–8–1(6)." Sauer v. Tiffany Laundry & Dry Cleaners, 2001 S.D. 24, 622 N.W.2d 74.

What this means is that a person's occupation must require that person to be exposed to COVID-19, otherwise, it is not compensable."

#### Utah: Statute

"Regarding Covid-19 in Utah, there are no specific rules covering exposure to communicable diseases. These claims are theoretically compensable if a link can be shown between work, the exposure, and actually getting symptoms. However, there are few cases that deal with communicable disease exposure (such as hepatitis, HIV, and needle sticks) and none of these have found to be compensable in the past. Therefore, if an employee claims that they were exposed at work, the procedure is recommended to be as follows:

- 1. Test for disease and confirm the diagnosis of Covid-19. There is nothing in the Utah statute or rules that requires we pay for testing, so it will be up to the carrier to determine if they want to pay for the test.
- 2. If positive, file a First Report of Injury
- 3. Take a position on the claim including potentially denying the claim as not being work-related
- 4. Litigate the claim and/ or provide treatment as in any other claim

The big issue with compensability in Covid-19 cases is medical causation. The petitioner will have to establish that they were exposed to the disease and contracted it as a result of their work. The issue with meeting that burden is that there appears to be widespread community spread, meaning that an employee could have also been exposed in a non-work setting. Therefore, it will be hard, if not impossible, for an employee to establish a compensable claim of Covid-19."

#### Vermont

On July 13, 2020, SB 342 was signed into law changing the presumption of COVID-19 exposures during their course of employment for "front line workers" and "other" employees. The presumption of compensability under the state's workers' compensation laws for any "front-line" workers whose death or disability results from COVID-19, is applicable provided the employee receives a positive laboratory test or a diagnosis by a licensed healthcare provider for COVID-19 between March 1, 2020, and January 15, 2021. "Front-line workers" are

defined as: firefighters; law enforcement officers; emergency medical personnel, first responders and volunteer personnel; workers in a health care facility or an office where health care services are provided by licensed healthcare professionals; correctional officers; workers in long-term care facilities or other residential care facilities; childcare providers required to provide childcare to the children of other front-line workers pursuant to Executive Order 01-20; home health workers or personal care attendants; workers in a morgue, funeral establishment, or crematory facility; and any other workers providing a service that the Commissioner determines creates a similarly elevated risk of exposure to or contraction of COVID-19.

Employees who do not meet the front-line worker definition are also entitled to the presumption of compensability if they receive a positive laboratory test or a diagnosis from a licensed health care provider for COVID-19 between April 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021 and not more than 14 days prior to the date on which the employee is tested or examined, either: (1) had a documented occupational exposure in the course of their employment to an individual with COVID-19; or (2) performed services at the residence or facility with residents or employees who (A) were present when services were performed and either (B)(i) had COVID-19 at the time or (ii) tested positive after 14 days services were performed.

#### Washington: Directive (3/5/2020)

"If an employer has a worker on temporary light duty and the employer closes their business due to the pandemic, the worker is eligible for time-loss benefits unless the employer chooses to keep them on salary. The law is clear in situations where temporary or transitional light-duty work comes to an end, regardless of the reason it's ending. The law recognizes that these workers are restricted from being able to perform their regular employment or jobs, other than the light-duty one.

Under certain circumstances, claims from health care providers and first responders involving COVID-19 may be allowed. Other claims that meet certain criteria for exposure will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, exposure and/or contraction of COVID-19 is not considered to be an allowable, work-related condition.

The Industrial Insurance Act allows for treatment of COVID-19 when work-related activity has resulted in probable exposure to the virus and certain criteria are met. In these cases, the worker's occupation must have a greater likelihood of contracting the disease because of the job (examples include first responders or health care workers). There must also be a documented or probable work-related exposure, and an employee/employer relationship.

COVID-19 claims are considered occupational disease exposures. The date of manifestation (DOM) is the first day of quarantine or the diagnosis date, whichever comes first.

Inslee announces workers' compensation coverage to include quarantined health workers/first responders. On March 5,2020 Governor Inslee announced that the state is taking steps to ensure workers' compensation protections for health care workers and first responders who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

L&I is immediately changing its policy around workers' compensation coverage for health care workers and first responders who are quarantined by a physician or public health officer. L&I will provide benefits to these workers during the time they're quarantined after being exposed to COVID-19 on the job.

Workers' compensation coverage can include medical testing, cover treatment expenses if a worker becomes ill or injured and provide time-loss payments for those who cannot work if they are sick or quarantined. Under certain circumstances, claims from health care providers and first responders involving COVID-19 may be allowed. Other claims that meet certain criteria for exposure will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, exposure and/or contraction of COVID-19 is not considered to be an allowable, work-related condition."

## Wisconsin: Act (5/15/2020)

On April 15, 2020, the governor signed Act 185 into law, which creates a rebuttable presumption that first responders who become infected with COVID-19 after coming into contact with a person who has COVID-19 through their employment contracted the illness at work. The presumption is created by a specific diagnosis of COVID-19 from a physician or by a positive COVID-19 test. First responders include employees of or volunteers for an employer that provides firefighting, law enforcement or medical treatment of COVID-19, and who have regular, direct contact with, or are regularly in close proximity to, patients or other members of the public requiring emergency services, within the scope of the individual's work for the employer. An employer can challenge this presumption with specific evidence that the injury was caused by exposure outside of the employee's work for the employer.

## Wyoming: Statute (5/16/2020)

"The definition of injury in Wyoming excludes "any illness or communicable disease unless the risk of contracting the illness or disease is increased by the nature of the employment." W.S. Sec. 27-14-102(a)(xi)(A). Therefore, it is likely that a healthcare provider or similar worker who contracts Covid-19 could make a workers' compensation claim. It is still the claimant's burden to prove that the employment increased the risk, and that the illness can be fairly traced to the employment as a proximate cause.

W.S. Sec. 27-14-603(a)(3). Under Williams v. State ex rel. Wyoming Workers' Compensation Div., 2 P.3d 543 (Wyo. 2000), testing for the virus would probably not be covered by workers' compensation."

On May 16, 2020, Wyoming's governing bodies passed S.B. 1002: the House, 38 to 20, and the Senate, 27 to 2. The bill would create a presumption that any workers covered by the state's monopoly workers' comp system had an increased risk of contracting COVID-19. In its current form the bill would be in effect throughout 2020. Claimants will still be required to prove the disease was contracted from work.

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