



Adjudication of Occupational Disease (COVID-19)

Claims at WorkSafeBC (WCB)

The occupational disease adjudication always starts with checking to see if a Schedule 1 presumption applies.

1. First, the claims adjudicator (case manager) will check to see if the Schedule 1 Presumption for Communicable Viral Pathogens can be applied:

- a. Teachers in a classroom environment who are diagnosed with COVID-19 when there is an accepted workplace exposure and that the worker was at a significantly greater risk of exposure than the public at large, will be presumed to have a work-related infection (i.e., the member does have a WCB claim).
- b. Classroom teachers who are diagnosed with COVID-19 where there has been no accepted workplace exposure, will have no presumption in favour of coverage.
- c. Teachers working from home who get COVID-19 will have no presumption in favour of coverage.
- d. Teachers who have not tested positive for COVID-19 may still have a claim if there is other evidence which establishes the existence of COVID-19.

2. If the presumption does not apply, the claims manager will then look at the individual facts on a case-by-case basis to see if the elements of an occupational disease claim have been met.

Members are advised as follows:

- If you are quarantined but do **not** have COVID-19, you **cannot** get wage loss (i.e., financial compensation for your lost wages) from WCB during your quarantine period.
- If you are quarantined and you do have a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19, a member should call WCB to file a claim by calling Teleclaim Service 1-888-967-5377 (1-888-WORKERS) Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If your claim is denied, please call Luke Olver, Assistant Director, WCB Advocate, for assistance 604-871-1890 or toll free 1-800-663-9163, ext. 1890, email: wcbadvocate@bctf.ca.

