

# New Washington State workers' compensation laws



Washington Gov. Jay Inslee recently signed two new laws providing workers' compensation benefits for those who are at risk for contracting a contagious disease at work, like COVID-19, during a public health emergency.

Here are some key details about the new laws:

- When a healthcare worker files a workers' compensation claim for COVID-19, it is presumed they were exposed or contracted the disease at work.
- Coverage applies retroactively for exposures to COVID-19 starting Feb. 29, 2020, when Gov. Inslee declared a state of emergency.
- There are some circumstances where a claim may not be allowed, for instance, if the employee is working from home for a period of time.
- Healthcare workers have two years from the date of the illness to file a claim.

For additional information, please refer to these Washington State Department of Labor and Industries resources:

1. [Presumptive coverage for healthcare workers' document](#)
2. [Common questions about presumptive coverage](#)

PeaceHealth caregivers who may have a work-related exposure to COVID-19 or other injury or illness should:

- Contact your supervisor.
- Contact the [24/7 Work Injury Line](#) to evaluate your incident and assist you with the process.
- Complete an incident report on [Safe2Share](#). If you need help, [refer to this tip sheet](#).
- Contact your network Return to Work Specialist:
  - [Michelle Carlson](#) – Northwest network
  - [Sophap Sok](#) – Columbia network

The health and safety of our caregivers is always a priority at PeaceHealth. Your ongoing commitment to caring for our patients and community is deeply appreciated.