



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

As we move forward with our post-pandemic workplace, our BWC staff is implementing a hybrid model. While we may be operating from a different physical location, the way we conduct business with our employers, injured workers, and others we serve, will not change. Phone numbers and email addresses for our customer BWC has developed COVID-19 issues. To download, click [here](#)

Face Coverings for Employers and Workforce: [We've Got You Covered](#) plan, [visit this link](#).

For FAQs related to our [Protecting Ohio's Workforce](#) —

Frequently Asked Questions

This is a "living" document. The following is updated routinely to reflect our most recent policy changes and initiatives, with new Q&As at the end.

Claims and Policy Processing

Q 1: What is BWC doing to help employers during this unprecedented time?

A: At the request of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, we issued nearly \$8 billion in dividends to Ohio employers throughout 2020 to ease the economic impact COVID-19 has caused on Ohio's economy and business community. (Read more about our [April](#), [October](#), and [December](#) dividends to learn specifics about each one.) As in previous years, the dividends were possible due to strong investment returns on employer premiums, a declining number of claims each year, and prudent fiscal management. It's also due to employers who work hard to improve workplace safety and reduce injury claims. Even with the downturn in the market, we have provided these important dividends to employers while maintaining funds to take care of injured workers for years to come.

Q 19: Will BWC be suspending audits of self-insuring (SI) and state fund (SF) employers?

A: While face to face audits for both SI and SF employers were suspended during the pandemic, normal audit scheduling has resumed. Employers have the option to request mail in audits in lieu of onsite audits.

Q 20: What are employers supposed to do about the classes that were cancelled? What about the ½ day classroom training?

A: Classroom attendance requirements were waived during the pandemic. Currently, employers have the opportunity to take advantage of a wide variety of online class offerings. Such offerings will satisfy BWC program requirements for class attendance.

Q 21: Will BWC extend the public employer taxing district (PEC) true-up grace period that ended March 16? 1 3.12h 12

- If the worker performs their regular duties on an intermittent basis, such as working at the employer location Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is paid to stay home Tuesday and Thursday, all wages are to be reported to the operating class code and not to class code 8871 or 9444.
- If a worker continues to perform the same duties from home while teleworking, the employer will continue reporting that worker's wages to the appropriate operational classification code, not to the class code for teleworking.

- For example: the private employer manufactures surgical masks. The employer has sent

workers home to telework (8871) or 9444. If the worker teleworks on 40 hours per week, the employer should report wages to the appropriate operational classification code (e.g., 9288 or 9132) and not to class code 8871 or 9444.

Q 26:

For additional information regarding reimbursement for this testing, providers can refer to Policy Alert #2020-04.

Q30: Will BWC extend the Public Employer Group-Experience Rating program roster filing deadline?

A: While the deadline for submitting the Group Experience Rating Program roster for PEC was extended during Policy Year 2019, the normal filing deadline has resumed and continues with Policy Year 2021.

Q31: Will BWC extend the Private Employer (PA) Industry-Specific Safety Program (ISSP), Drug-Free Safety Program (DFSP) and Transitional Work Bonus (TWB) program enrollment deadlines?

A: While program enrollment deadlines for ISSP, DFSP, and TWB were extended during Policy Year 2019, normal application deadline dates for these programs have resumed and remain the last business day of May for PA and the last business day of November for PEC.

Q32: Is COVID-19 bonus pay to workers reportable when submitting true-up payroll?

A: