

s.22

cc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear ^{s.22}

Thank you for your email of March 24, 2020, addressed to the Honourable John Horgan,
Premier, regarding the ^{s.22} As Minister of Labour,
I am pleased to respond.

I can assure you that worker rights and worker protections continue as a priority for Government
as we move through this difficult time. ^{s.22}

^{s.22} Please be assured that
Government will take your views under consideration, and is actively working to support
workers, business, and all British Columbians through this difficult time.

It may interest you to know that there are resources available to workers who have been
temporarily laid off due to COVID-19. The COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information
~~resource website~~ is available at: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-
preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support). The ~~resource website~~ provides
important and up-to-date information and guidance for individuals, workers, and employers.
This includes specific information and further links to provincial and federal initiatives to
provide financial and other supports for workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A direct
link to key federal supports, including details on new employment insurance programs can be
accessed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>. The
BC website also includes key contact information should you have additional specific questions
or concerns about COVID-19.

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s.22

Page 2

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Harry Bains
Minister

s.22

cc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear ^{s.22}

Thank you for your email of March 15, 2020, addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier outlining your concerns about your ^{s.22} due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As Minister of Labour, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Horgan.

I understand from your email that, given the current pressures on the health care system triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, you request that consideration be made for a temporary ban on the requirement for a doctor's note by employers should an employee miss work due to an illness. The time you have taken to express your concerns is appreciated. Please be assured that Government will take your views under consideration and is actively working to support workers, business, and all British Columbians through this difficult time.

It may interest you to know that on March 23, 2020, the Government of British Columbia (BC) introduced and passed amendments to the *Employment Standards Act* (ESA) to provide unpaid, job-protected leave to employees during the COVID-19 public health emergency and up to 3 days of unpaid, job-protected personal illness or injury leave per year.

The leave allows workers to immediately take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for specified reasons relating to COVID-19. This includes employees who are ill, employees who are required to self-isolate in compliance with a public health order or guideline and employees unable to go to work because their employers are concerned that they may expose

.../2

other employees to risk. Employees are entitled to the leave for as long as a specified COVID-19-related situation applies to them (e.g., the full period they are required to self-isolate under a public health order or guideline). Employers cannot require an employee to provide a doctor's note to establish their eligibility for this leave. Entitlement for this leave is retroactive to January 27, 2020, the date that the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in BC. Background information and news release on these new provisions is available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0012-000551>.

The Province has also established a COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information resource website which is available at: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19>. The resource provides important and up-to-date information and guidance for individuals, workers, and employers. This includes specific information and further links to provincial and federal initiatives to provide financial and other supports for workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A direct link to key federal supports, including details on specific federal supports for people who are sick, quarantined, or in directed self-isolation, can be viewed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html>. The BC website also includes key contact information should you have additional specific questions or concerns about COVID-19.

I hope you find this information useful.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Harry Bains
Minister

s.22

cc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of March 26, 2020, addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, regarding recognition of essential workers in the service industry in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Minister of Labour, your email was forwarded to me and I am pleased to respond to you directly.

Let me first say that I very much appreciate the services you and many other essential workers are providing to British Columbians during this difficult time. We all find ourselves coming to terms with a rapidly changing world. Adjusting to this new temporary reality is not easy but it is necessary.

I understand from your email that, given the current economic hardships triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the potentially increased risk of infection of grocery store workers, you request that consideration be made for employers to provide employees with hazard pay. The time you have taken to express your concerns is appreciated. Please be assured that Government will take your views under consideration, and is actively working to support workers, business and all British Columbians through this difficult time.

It may interest you to know that the COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information resource website is available at: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19>. The resource website provides important and up-to-date information and guidance for individuals, workers, and employers. This includes specific information and further links to provincial and federal initiatives to provide financial and other supports for workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The website also includes key contact information should you have additional specific questions or concerns about COVID-19.

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s.22

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I hope you find this information useful.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Harry Bains
Minister



Ref: 59196

Kim Novak
President
UFCW 1518
350 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 1A6
Email: reception@ufcw1518.com

Dear Kim Novak:

Thank you for your letter dated March 17, 2020, regarding the safety of grocery store and pharmacy workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have also received a copy of your letter dated March 18, 2020, addressed to the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, on the same subject.

Let me first say that I very much appreciate the leadership you are providing to many thousands of workers across the province during this difficult time. We all find ourselves coming to terms with a rapidly changing world. Adjusting to this new temporary reality is not easy but it is necessary. As you know, we are at a critical juncture in our response to COVID-19. The message from our Health officials is clear: how we act today will determine the future.

The Province is taking unprecedented steps to support our Provincial Health Officer and Minister of Health in the swift and effective response to COVID-19. It is crucial that the response and recovery is coordinated, and that we move forward in lock step with federal and local governments under a single action plan.

Please be assured that the suggested actions you have outlined in your letter—including the proposal respecting workers' compensation presumptions—will be taken into consideration.

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As you will know, sSince your letter, significant developments related to the pandemic have occurred. On March 17, 2020, the British Columbia ~~Public~~ Provincial Health Officer issued an Order to people who have been or have likely been exposed to COVID-19 including persons in British Columbia who travelled outside Canada and returned to Canada on or after March 12, 2020 to self-isolate for 14 days in their homes, hotel, or a similar place to prevent transmission to others with whom they might have contact. Specific information on the Order Notice is available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-pho-class-order-travellers.pdf>.

Further, on March 25, 2019, the Federal Government announced an Emergency Order under the *Quarantine Act* that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. More information on the Federal Government Emergency Order is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/03/new-order-makes-self-isolation-mandatory-for-individuals-entering-canada.html>.

On March 23, 2020, the Government of British Columbia introduced and passed amendments to the *Employment Standards Act* (ESA) to provide unpaid, job-protected leave to employees during the COVID-19 crisis and up to three days of unpaid, job-protected personal illness or injury leave per year.

The leave allows workers to immediately take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for specified reasons relating to COVID-19. This includes employees who are required to self-isolate in compliance with a public health order or guideline and employees unable to go to work because their employers are concerned that they may expose other employees to risk. Employees are entitled to the leave for as long as a specified COVID-19-related situation applies to them (e.g., the full period they are required to self-isolate under a public health order or guideline). Employers cannot require an employee to provide a doctor's note to establish their eligibility for this leave. Entitlement to this leave is retroactive to January 27, 2020, the date that the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in BC. Background information and news release on these new provisions is available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0012-000551>.

Further guidance on appropriate workplace policies designed to ensure healthy and safe workplaces, in the context of the pandemic, is available through the WorkSafeBC at: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/health-and-safety/what-employers-should-do>.

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In addition, the COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information ~~resource~~website is available at: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19>. This ~~resource website~~ provides important and up-to-date information and guidance for individuals, workers, and employers. It includes detailed information and further links to programs and initiatives aimed at supporting those affected by COVID-19. It also includes further key contact information for individuals with specific questions or concerns about COVID-19.

Finally, you will likely now be aware that Government has been working with school districts and childcare providers to make as many spaces available as possible for childcare, and care for K-12 children including before and after school care. We have asked for all providers and school districts to make decisions on spaces considering their community's needs, emphasizing the need to provide the children of all essential service workers priority but that a focus on the children of front-line healthcare workers should be the highest priority. Your members can apply for childcare spaces in their community by telephone at: 1 888 338-6622 and selecting option 4, or online at: www.gov.bc.ca/essential-service-child-care.

We will continue working with UFCW 1518 and supporting your members and the important work that they do. I am always available to talk to and hear from your members and hope that we can continue supporting one another with the important work that needs to be done to get through this crisis together.

Again, thank you for your letter. Please contact my office with further questions or concerns. Frontline workers have had our backs through this crisis—it is time all of us have theirs.

Sincerely,

Harry Bains
Minister

pc: Honourable Adrian Dix



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ralph McGinn, Chair

Anne Naser
Baltej Dhillon
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Lee Loftus
Rebecca Packer
Brooks Patterson

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Lillian White

Mailing address: PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal, Vancouver BC V6B 5L5 | Phone 604.276.3100 | worksafebc.com |

April 20, 2020

Sent via Email

Honourable Harry Bains
Minister of Labour
Office of the Minister
Ministry of Labour
P.O. Box 9064 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bains:

RE: Recognizing COVID-19 as an Occupational Disease

WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has directed the Policy, Regulation and Research Division ("PRRD") to add COVID-19 to the list of diseases in Schedule 1 of the *Workers Compensation Act* on an expedited process. The PRRD will work with WorkSafeBC's Evidence Based Practice Group and Clinical Services to determine the appropriate disease descriptor and associated process, trade and industries to be covered. Consultation will include the Policy Practice Consultative Committee ("PPCC") and an abbreviated consultation with external stakeholders in recognition of the importance of having the presumption in place as soon as possible.

The PRRD will be notifying the PPCC shortly about this project being added to the Policy Priorities Work Plan.

If your office has any questions about the project or process, please feel free to have them contact Lori Guiton, Director of the PRRD at 604-910-2160.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph McGinn
Chair, Board of Directors
WorkSafeBC

Copy: Anne Naser
President and CEO
WorkSafeBC

Trevor Hughes
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour

From: [Barrett, Lisa EMBC:EX](#)
To: [Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: LBR COVID-19 Responses for Approval (59298 s.22 , 59254 s.22 , 59196 s.22 , 59248 Unknown)
Date: April 28, 2020 9:05:08 AM
Attachments: [59298 s.22 Final 200417 Lisa edits.docx](#)
[59196 s.22 Final 200417 Lisa edits.docx](#)
[59248 Unknown Final 200417 Lisa edits.docx](#)
[59254 s.22 Final 200417 Lisa edits.docx](#)

Hi Colin! Minor edits/suggestions attached.

Lisa

From: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX
Sent: April 28, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Barrett, Lisa EMBC:EX
Cc: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: LBR COVID-19 Responses for Approval (59298 s.22 , 59254 s.22 , 59196 s.22 , 59248 Unknown)

Hi Lisa,

A few letters for approval. I took a look and they are OK to me.

Let me know,

C

From: Butler, Lisa M JEDC:EX <Lisa.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 17, 2020 4:35 PM
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>; Correspondence Services LBR:EX <LBR.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: LBR COVID-19 Responses for Approval (59298 s.22 , 59254 s.22 , 59196 s.22 , 59248 Unknown)

Hi Jules,

Attached are four responses for approval.

Thank you!

Lisa

Lisa Butler

A/Manager, Client Relations

Corporate Planning and Priorities

Management Services Division

Serving:

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Competitiveness

Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture

Ministry of Labour

Email: Lisa.Butler@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 236-478-1655

From: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX](#); [Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX](#); [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX](#); [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: COVID - 19 presumption
Date: April 21, 2020 10:21:26 AM
Attachments: [20200420 Letter to Minister Bains Re COVID-19 Recognition as an Occupational Disease.pdf](#)

Here's what we know from Craig late last night...

Today, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors ("BOD") met and made a decision to move forward with the expedited process of adding COVID-19 (or potentially more broadly coronaviruses or respiratory communicable diseases) to Schedule 1 (formerly Schedule B) *Workers Compensation Act* ("WCA"). As such, this issue has been added to the Policy Regulation and Research Division's ("PRRD") policy priorities workplan.

As background, Schedule 1 is the highest level of designation or recognition of an occupational disease. A disease is added to Schedule 1 in connection with a described process or industry wherever it is satisfied from the expert medical and scientific advice it receives that there is substantially greater incidence of the particular disease in a particular employment than there is in the general population.

The BOD has the sole authority of what diseases and associated trades, processes or industries are added to Schedule 1 of the WCA. The primary significance of Schedule 1 is work causation is presumed, unless the contrary is proven.

Occupational diseases are added to Schedule 1 after scientific and medical research is conducted and stakeholders are consulted on the proposed addition. Once this is done the BOD reviews the findings and stakeholder feedback and makes a decision on the details of the presumption. Because Schedule 1 can only be revised by BOD-approved regulation, the Regulation must be deposited with the Office of the Registrar of Regulations, and any change is only effective 90 days after the regulation is deposited with the Office. Generally this process can take from 18-24 months. The BOD has requested the PRRD expedite the process due to the current pandemic. The PRRD anticipates the expedited process will take about 6 months.

The PRRD has established an internal working committee and is working with WorkSafeBC's Evidence Based Practice Group and Clinical Service on obtaining medical and scientific research.

I will be advising our external Policy Practice and Consultative Committee about this project shortly and will have the policy workplan on WorkSafeBC's website updated this week.

From: Fitzsimmons, Craig
Sent: April 20, 2020 5:19 PM
To: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: COVID - 19 presumption
Wow. Never heard anything. Will check

From: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX \[mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca\]](#)
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Fitzsimmons, Craig <Craig.Fitzsimmons@worksafebc.com>
Subject: COVID - 19 presumption

I'm hearing rumours that your board has approved expanded presumptions for COVID-19 workers?

I'm only slightly panicked because they talked about a Premier and Minister press conference to announce tomorrow but I don't know anything more. You aware?

From: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX
To: GCPE Communications - Labour
Subject: FW: Task Tracker - April 29, 2020
Date: April 29, 2020 10:48:33 AM
Attachments: GCPE TASK TRACKER - Apr 29 2020.docx

NOTES:

- OIC IB will be Saturday or Monday, but the OIC will be deposited/signed by LG Friday night most likely.
 - s.13
 -
 - Is international LBR conference happening July 27 still? Colin to investigate.
-

From: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX
Sent: April 29, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Scott, Samantha LBR:EX ; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX
Cc: GCPE Communications - Labour
Subject: Task Tracker - April 29, 2020

Hello all,

Task Tracker attached for meeting at 10:30am today. Talk to you then!

Colin Hynes

Pronouns he/him/his

Ministry of Labour

Government Communication and Public Engagement

(250)-208-1638

Page 14 of 31 to/à Page 22 of 31

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX](#); [MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX](#); [Scott, Samantha LBR:EX](#); [Leduc, Danine LBR:EX](#)
Cc: [Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX](#); [Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX](#); [Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX](#); [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX](#); [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FYI: Ensuring WCB coverage for essential workers is critical: BCFED
Date: April 30, 2020 12:02:37 PM
Importance: High

Sending as an FYI in case you haven't seen yet. The BCFED has asked for presumption for COVID-19 claims.

Ensuring WCB coverage for essential workers is critical: BCFED

BC Federation of Labour

News Release

April 29, 2020

Copyright

From: Wey, Melody GCPE:EX
To: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX
Cc: Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX; Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: JIC Call issue flag
Date: April 22, 2020 10:21:02 AM

s.13

Andy said for media requests- to send to Chandler and Emily and copy Andy. I'm unclear on what step that replaces in what we have below- so if you could clarify, that would be FAB. Thanks.

MEDIA RESPONSE PROCESS

- If the request is directly related to number of cases, advice from Provincial Health Officer, Minister Dix comments:
 1. Enter the request into the media hub.
 2. Send a takeover request to the Ministry of Health and share with the JIC.
 3. No further action required from shops.
- If the request has no direct health implications, but other economic, social, travel, education or another connection to COVID-19 please follow this protocol:
 1. Add media request into the hub
 2. From the drop down menu, share the request under "Shared with" with "Joint Information Centre (JIC)".
 3. Click save and email. (This will trigger an email to Chandler Grieve – Media Relations lead for Joint Information Centre for COVID 19 response.)
 4. Chandler or a member of the JIC team will then reach out to the ministry involved in the initial request and the issues management team to discuss next steps.
- **DO NOT** directly respond to the reporter until the JIC has advised to do so.
- The JIC will be working with the shops, issues management team and Health to prioritize COVID media responses and provide centralized messaging.

From: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX
Sent: April 22, 2020 10:16 AM
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX ; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX
Cc: Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX ; Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX
Subject: JIC Call issue flag

Mel if you can send me the media relations thing, I'll confirm during the call.

Also, should I mention the Presumptions?

Anything else?

Colin Hynes

Pronouns he/him/his
Ministry of Labour
Government Communication and Public Engagement
(250)-208-1638

From: Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX
To: Wey, Melody GCPE:EX; GCPE Communications - Labour
Subject: RE: Summary: Task Tracker call
Date: April 22, 2020 10:59:40 AM

Got it on the Day of Mourning MLA Kit. Will try and get that over to you today.
Rishma

From: Wey, Melody GCPE:EX
Sent: April 22, 2020 10:58 AM
To: GCPE Communications - Labour
Subject: Summary: Task Tracker call

Here's a short summary from the task tracker call with the MO. A new task tracker is saved to the LAN now.

- Day of Mourning – MO would like the MLA Kit by Friday to share with MLAs before the weekend. Please include in the background section a good summary of the day's activities ie News release issued at 8am, video and digital plan for the day (Labour Day 2019 MLA Kit a good example)

s.13

From: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX](#); [Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX](#); [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Weekly briefing by DMO to MHB
Date: April 23, 2020 3:05:52 PM

s.13

From: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX
Sent: April 23, 2020 3:00 PM
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX ; Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX ; Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX ; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Weekly briefing by DMO to MHB

s.13

From: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 23, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX <Nicole.Beneteau@gov.bc.ca>; Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX <Rishma.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Weekly briefing by DMO to MHB
DMO/MO weekly briefing notes:

LEGISLATION

- Deputy Don requested that all ministries re-prioritize their list of legislative items on a priority or urgent-need basis to the more mundane, mandate-driven or administrative pieces.
- DM is tasked with submitting on Sunday, the ministry legislative priority calendar to reflect most urgent for potential House resumption 3rd wk. of May, then fall 2020 & spring 2021.
- Instructed to postpone any legislative amendments or introductions that have cost implications (which means some of our legislative pieces may change in direction, not just timing).
- s.12; s.13; s.17

*** Action Requested *** Jules to circle back with MO for copy of list on Monday for planning, will share w/team.

s.13

Thank you,
Jules
Julianne (Jules) McCaffrey

Director of Communications, LBR
Government of British Columbia
D: 778-698-8964
C: 250-888-8074

Preferred pronouns: (she/her/hers)

So grateful to live, learn, share space and share friendship with members from the Lkwungen territory. I am committed to the important work of meaningful reconciliation, and I attempt to tread lightly on this beautiful land that I get to call home.

Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX

From: Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX
Sent: April 24, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Fitzsimmons, Craig WCB:EX
Cc: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX
Subject: UPDATE: COVID presumptions

Hi Craig,

You might already know this from your channels, but as a follow up to our conversation yesterday there was a meeting between Premier Horgan, Minister Bains and Trevor with WSBC to talk about the COVID-19 presumptions. ^{s.13}
s.13

Thanks,
Rishma

Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX

From: Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX
Sent: April 22, 2020 1:13 PM
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX; Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: WorkSafeBC -- presumption for COVID-19 claims

Since I really am logging off now, raising this with you rather than with Craig directly. This raises for me the question of why 36% of claims have been rejected? It seems like a large number.

From: Fitzsimmons, Craig <Craig.Fitzsimmons@worksafebc.com>
Sent: April 22, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>; Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX <Rishma.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: WorkSafeBC -- presumption for COVID-19 claims

Hi Colin, there are my high-level messages

- WorkSafeBC is releasing claims statistics on COVID-19 exposure to increase transparency during this unique public health emergency. These statistics will be updated weekly.
- As of April 15th, WorkSafeBC has received 237 claims related to COVID-19 exposure.
- Just over half (52%) of these claims have come from the Health Care and Social Services sector.
- Where an allow/disallow decision has been made, 64% of claims related to COVID-19 exposure have been accepted.

From: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX [<mailto:Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Fitzsimmons, Craig <Craig.Fitzsimmons@worksafebc.com>; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>; Thomas, Rishma GCPE:EX <Rishma.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: WorkSafeBC -- presumption for COVID-19 claims

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for this Craig, We will chat and get back to you soon. Also, I wanted to note we are working on some KMs for the Minister on the claims (re: Don Z on the JIC call).

Do you have any lines already? What would you ideally have the Minister say on the claims?

Thanks!

Colin

From: Fitzsimmons, Craig <Craig.Fitzsimmons@worksafebc.com>
Sent: April 22, 2020 12:58 PM
To: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX <Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca>; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca>;

Subject: FYI: WorkSafeBC -- presumption for COVID-19 claims

Good afternoon, FYI, this afternoon, we are looking at posting some information about COVID-19 claims to our website.

Below is the basic info.

Before posting, wanted to talk to you first about how best to proceed. We could just post. Or we could put the info below into an Information Bulletin. Could see if of interest to government to mention in media availabilities.

DRAFT INFO

WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has directed the Policy, Regulation and Research Division (PRRD) to add COVID-19 (or potentially more broadly coronaviruses or respiratory communicable diseases) to the list of diseases in Schedule 1 of the *Workers Compensation Act* on an expedited process.

The primary significance of Schedule 1 is that COVID-19 claims will be presumed to be caused from work, unless proven otherwise.

WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has the sole authority over what diseases and associated trades, processes or industries are added to Schedule 1 of the *Act*.

Generally, the process to add a disease to Schedule 1 can take between 18-24 months. However, the PRRD anticipates the expedited process will take about six months.

The PRRD has established an internal working committee and is working with WorkSafeBC's Evidence Based Practice Group and Clinical Services on obtaining medical and scientific research.

Consultation will include the Policy Practice Consultative Committee (PPCC) and an abbreviated consultation with external stakeholders in recognition of the importance of having the presumption in place as soon as possible.

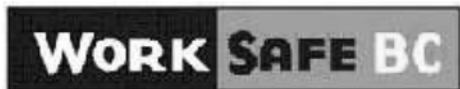
While this work is underway, COVID-19 claims will continue to be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis on the merits of the claim, consistent with current law and policy.

Craig Fitzsimmons

Director, Government & Media Relations
Tel: 604.276-3141

WorkSafeBC

6951 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, BC
worksafebc.com



As more information and resources about COVID-19 become available, we will continue to update the COVID-19 section of our website at worksafebc.com. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for the latest announcements, jobs, workplace health and safety resources, and news from WorkSafeBC.

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