

Discontinuance of COVID-19 cost relief FAQs

When to report a case of COVID-19 to the WCB

If a situation meets the criteria listed in the WCB's policy [Injuries – Communicable Disease \(POL 02/2010\)](#), such as a worker who is at greater risk of contracting the virus than the general public and they lose time from work after contracting the virus, a claim should be submitted.

If the injury occurred on or prior to Dec. 31, 2021 and is accepted as a confirmed work-related COVID-19 claim, the employer will receive cost relief for costs associated with the claim. Read the WCB's policy [COVID-19 Response – Cost Relief \(ADM POL 04/2020\)](#). COVID-19 related injuries occurring on or after Jan. 1, 2022 will not be eligible for cost relief.

WCB's 2020-21 COVID-19 cost relief to be discontinued at year end

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the WCB has taken a number of steps to support Saskatchewan employers and workers through this difficult time, including providing cost relief for COVID-19 workplace injury claims in 2020 and 2021.

This cost relief will be discontinued for accepted COVID-19 workplace injuries that occur on or after Jan. 1, 2022. Accepted COVID-19 workplace injuries that occur on or prior to Dec. 31, 2021 will still be eligible for cost relief from the WCB to cover claim costs.

The decision to provide cost relief for all accepted COVID-19 claims was a temporary support for employers. When the decision was made in 2020, vaccines were not yet approved or available, and many safety measures that exist today were not in place. Vaccines are now readily available and vaccination or negative testing policies are now in place in many locations.

The cost relief for COVID-19 claims was funded through the WCB's occupational disease reserve as a temporary measure to support Saskatchewan employers. While the WCB is financially sound and able to absorb the claim costs related to the COVID-19 virus in the short term, the organization is unable to continue this practice in the long term. As such, COVID-19 work-related injuries that occur on or after Jan. 1, 2022 will not be eligible for cost relief.

WCB to still cover eligible COVID-19 workplace claims

Eligible COVID-19 workplace claims will still be covered by the WCB. The WCB's decision-making process on whether a case of COVID-19 is eligible for compensation will remain the same as it is now. Read the WCB's policy [Injuries – Communicable Disease \(POL 02/2010\)](#) for details.

More information will be posted to the [WCB's website](#) on Dec. 13, 2021.

