

WCB-Alberta

Work*sight*

March 2020 - *special edition*

Feature

COVID-19 update

for employers

Alberta employers,

This is a challenging time for Albertans as we grapple with the human and financial impacts of the COVID-19 virus. The situation continues to evolve daily, and like us, I know you are working diligently to protect the safety of your workers, clients and visitors.

To minimize risk and reduce the chances of exposure, our organization is implementing extra precautions, including:

- Taking steps to reduce client travel and deferring meetings or doing them by phone when possible.
- Postponing all services with the exception of clinical assessments at Millard Treatment Centre (any clients impacted by these changes will be contacted directly).

- Cancelling employer seminars and Millard Health workshops through April 30 (registrants will receive cancellation notices).

We will continue to monitor the situation and adapt our approach based on the advice of public health officials, while ensuring we continue to deliver the core services Alberta's workers and employers rely on. In the meantime, here is some information that may help you and your workers:

- **If you or your workers have questions about when to report a work-related COVID-19 exposure to WCB, have a look at our [worker](#) and [employer](#) fact sheets.** These fact sheets explain WCB coverage and reporting in the event someone who works for you contracts the virus.
- **Benefit payments to injured workers will continue as scheduled**, but we encourage any individuals currently receiving payments by cheque to sign up for [direct deposit](#) to minimize the chance of any disruption. Prescription reimbursements can also be done quickly and easily through the [myWCB worker app](#).
- **Workers will not suffer any loss of benefits due to work disruptions.** If employers do not pay workers during a shutdown, WCB will provide wage replacement benefits for any workers who were working modified duties as a result of a previous workplace injury. These costs will not impact premiums until 2022; prior to that time we will consider how to manage these impacts for employers.
- **Employers may need flexibility in managing their WCB account and premiums during this time.** Please contact us if you need to revise your assessable earnings, change your payment plan, or make changes to the optional coverage on your account.

I'd also like to take a moment on behalf of all Albertans to thank those who are helping us navigate these uncertain times. From the healthcare workers on the frontlines of this pandemic, to the tradespeople, transport drivers, retailers, industry workers and everyone else who keeps this province running – we are grateful for the work you do.

Please give us a call if you have any questions – we're here to help.

Trevor Alexander

President & CEO, WCB-Alberta

Have questions?

Contact our Customer Contact Center in Edmonton (780-498-3999), Calgary (403-517-6000) or toll free in Alberta at 1-866-922-9221, or by [email](#).



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