

APWU Bargaining Unit Member OWCP Claims for COVID-19

APWU bargaining unit employees, including PSEs, who believe they were infected with COVID-19 at work may be entitled to workers' compensation benefits under the Federal Employees Compensation Act. FECA covers the cost of medical treatment and lost wages related to COVID-19 that is contracted by postal workers while at work.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and you believe you contracted the virus at work, you can file a claim with the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). You will need to submit evidence that you were exposed at work as well as medical evidence confirming you have COVID-19. The Postal Service will provide OWCP with information about your alleged exposure and will either support or controvert the claim. OWCP reviews this evidence in order to accept or deny the claim.

OWCP is accepting COVID-19 claims only for employees who test positive for COVID-19. You must submit a medical report from a qualified physician and a positive test result for COVID-19. Make sure you explain your work exposure to your physician and that the exposure is referenced in the medical report.

A COVID-19 OWCP claim must include evidence that you contracted the virus AT WORK. You should provide a detailed statement describing: (1) how you were exposed to the virus; (2) when the exposure occurred; (3) how long and how frequently were you exposed; and (4) where and why the exposure occurred. If you have details about other co-workers who were exposed or a timeline that describes your activities before your exposure and the onset of your symptoms, OWCP will consider that as well.