

From: [FSIS User Information - FSIS](#)
To: [FSIS - All FSIS Employees](#)
Date: Tue 4/21/2020 3:02 PM
Subject: OWCP claims due to COVID-19

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Federal employees who develop COVID-19 while in the performance of their duties are entitled to workers' compensation coverage pursuant to the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). Federal agencies process workers' compensation claims through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). DOL recently revised its guidance regarding claims filed related to COVID-19.

DOL acknowledges that it is difficult to determine the precise moment and method of virus transmission. They will accept claims from employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 as supported by medical documentation when exposure to the virus likely occurred during the performance of their official duties. Objective evidence that a COVID-19 case may be work-related includes, for example, a number of cases developing among workers who work closely together without an alternative explanation. It may also include information you have shared with your supervisor regarding your health and safety.

DOL has created new [procedures](#) to specifically address COVID-19 claims. Employees filing a claim for workers' compensation coverage as a result of contracting COVID-19 **should file Form CA-1**, Notice of Traumatic Injury, through FSIS' Workers' Compensation Team at AskWorkersComp@usda.gov. Form CA-1 can be obtained from DOL at <https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/regs/compliance/forms.htm>.

Be advised that DOL will require the claimant to provide a factual statement and any available evidence concerning exposure. FSIS will also be expected to provide DOL with any information regarding the alleged exposure and indicate whether the Agency supports the claim. If FSIS supports the claim that the exposure occurred and if the CA-1 is filed within 30 days, then the employee is eligible to receive Continuation of Pay for up to 45 days.

Employees should work with their supervisors during the claims process as normal. Please email AskWorkersComp@usda.gov with questions.

Lost/stolen laptop, Smartphone or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 473-9135.

*****Supervisors should make a copy of this email available to inspection personnel without Outlook accounts.*****