

Donna Boggs

From: Ag Association Management Services, Inc <chris@agamsi.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Donna Boggs
Subject: AAMSI Update on COVID-19 Situation

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SPECIAL **COVID-19 UPDATE**
FROM YOUR TEAM AT AAMSI



Governor Newsom Announces Workers' Compensation Benefits for Workers who Contract COVID-19 During Stay at Home Order

Yesterday Governor Newsom announced he signed an Executive Order to expand the scope of workers' compensation benefits during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This was in response to front line workers and others in the essential workforce contracting the virus and movement by the Legislature to expand workers' compensation coverage through legislation.

The Governor announced the Executive Order will do the following:

1. The Executive Order is retroactive to March 19 and extends for 60 days from today's announcement.
2. Employees working outside the home that test positive for COVID-19 or are diagnosed positive by a physician or surgeon licensed by the California Medical Board within the time period of the Executive Order are presumed to have contracted the disease at the workplace. If it is a diagnosis, the diagnosis must be confirmed by a positive test within 30 days.
3. The presumption applies to all employees directed to work outside the home by their employer. It is not limited to essential employees.
4. The presumption is rebuttable by the employer, however, the time for the employer to deny a claim is reduced from the current 90 days to 30 days.
5. The rebuttable presumption is in effect for 60 days from May 6, 2020, but coverage continues after the 60-day expiration date.
6. Temporary disability payments begin only after the employee uses all other state or federal sick leave benefits.

7. Re-testing is required every 15 days during first 45 days of temporary disability payments.
8. The Department of Industrial Relations will not require or accept a “no beneficiary” death benefit.

We suggest you reach out to your individual workers' compensation insurance provider to determine how the Executive Order will impact your business and the procedure to follow should you have an employee test positive for COVID-19.

A link to the Executive Order can be found [here](#).

California Prepares to Get Back to Business

Based on last week's announcement by Governor Newsom that California counties may begin plans to open back up for business, we are expecting more details about specific ordinances in each California county.

Included [here](#) are "8 Questions Businesses May Have" as they prepare to open up their offices and manage employees. The information comes from an organization called HR Done Right.

California Budget Outlook

AAMSI representatives have been on numerous conference calls in recent weeks to keep us updated on the latest information to pass on to our clients and member organizations. Inevitably these discussions turn to future economic concerns for the state and agriculture, specifically. As one can imagine, the outlook is not always positive.

In the next few days we are expecting an update from the Governor on state budgets. At that time, we will know more. In the meantime, please see [Coronavirus Plunges California into Worst Budget Deficit in State History](#) that appeared in today's *Los Angeles Times*. In addition, we are also attaching a [Fiscal Update from the California Department of Finance](#) issued today.

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