



Kentucky Labor Cabinet

Department of Workers' Claims

Andy Beshear
Governor

Larry L. Roberts
Secretary

Jacqueline Coleman
Lieutenant Governor

Robert L. Swisher
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Workers' Compensation Stakeholders

FROM: Robert L. Swisher, Commissioner
Department of Workers' Claims

DATE: March 20, 2020

RE: DWC Operations

Friends and colleagues: I hope this finds you all well and safe. As you are aware, Governor Beshear has taken decisive action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to the Governor's directive, roughly 50% of our Frankfort-based staff members are currently teleworking. A recent directive to all state agencies mandates that we have 75% of our employees who are able to do so working from home by March 27. This will include not only our Frankfort staff, but also ALJs, the Workers' Compensation Board, and field office staff.

In the past week, we have taken steps to cancel in-person workers' compensation proceedings and have relaxed the rules for taking depositions remotely in order to promote the safety and health of the entire workers' compensation community. I expect additional announcements next week regarding emerging issues such as an expanded role for

telemedicine and telehealth. With everything developing rapidly around us, I want to assure you that we are open for business and operating as closely to normal as possible. The dedicated, professional staff of the DWC is committed to keeping this vital system up and running with as little interruption in delivery of services as we can manage. I ask that you bear with us as we all work our way through these uncertain times.

Should issues arise that you feel need attention, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to me. My direct line is 502-782-4535. My cell is 859-327-9915. My email is robert.swisher@ky.gov. As Governor Beshear has said many times, we will get through this together. Be well and be safe.

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