

All Personnel**WORK-RELATED INJURIES**

AR 4157.1/4257.1/4357.1

In order to provide medical benefits, temporary or permanent disability benefits, wage replacement, retraining or skill enhancement, and/or death benefits in the event that an employee becomes injured or ill in the course of employment, the district shall provide all employees with insurance and workers' compensation benefits in accordance with law. The Superintendent or designee shall develop an efficient claims handling process that reduces costs and facilitates employee recovery.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify every new employee, at the time of hire or by the end of the first pay period, of the employee's right to receive workers' compensation benefits if injured at work. (Labor Code 3551; 8 CCR 15596)

In addition, a notice regarding workers' compensation benefits shall be posted in a conspicuous location frequented by employees, where the notice may be easily read during the workday. (Labor Code 3550)

In the event that an employee is injured or becomes ill in the course of employment, the employee shall report the work-related injury or illness to the Superintendent or designee as soon as practicable. The employee and appropriate district staff shall also promptly document the date and time of any incident, a description of the incident, and any persons present.

Within one working day of receiving notice or knowledge of any injury to an employee in the course of employment, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a claim form and notice of potential eligibility for workers' compensation benefits to the employee or, in the case of the employee's death, to the employee's dependents. The claim form and notice shall be provided personally or by first class mail. (Labor Code 5401)

The Superintendent or designee shall additionally ensure that any employee who is a victim of a crime that occurred at the place of employment is given written notice personally or by first class mail within one working day of the crime, or when the district reasonably should have known of the crime, that the employee is eligible for workers' compensation benefits for injuries, including psychiatric injuries, that may have resulted from the crime. (Labor Code 3553)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employee notices described above are in the form prescribed by the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), Division of Workers Compensation.

Upon learning of a work-related injury or illness, or injury or illness alleged to have arisen out of and in the course of employment, the Superintendent or designee shall report the incident to the district's insurance carrier or DIR, as applicable, within five days after obtaining knowledge of the injury or illness. If a subsequent death arises as a result of the reported injury or illness, an amended report indicating the death shall be filed within five days after being notified of or learning about the death. (Labor Code 6409.1)

In addition, in every case involving death or serious injury or illness, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately make a report to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) by telephone or through an online mechanism made available by Cal/OSHA. (Labor Code 6409.1)

WORK-RELATED INJURIES (continued)

For the purpose of this report, *serious injury or illness* means any injury or illness occurring in a place of employment or in connection with any employment that requires inpatient hospitalization for other than medical observation or diagnostic testing, or in which an employee suffers an amputation, the loss of an eye, or any serious degree of permanent disfigurement. (Labor Code 6302)

Claims Related to COVID-19

Until January 1, 2023, an employee is presumed to be entitled to workers' compensation benefits for illness or death resulting from COVID-19 if the diagnosis was made within 14 days after the employee performed labor or services at the place of employment and if the employee contracted COVID-19 during an outbreak at the employee's specific place of employment. (Labor Code 3212.86, 3212.88)

For this purpose, an *outbreak* means that, within 14 calendar days, one of the following occurs at a specific place of employment: (Labor Code 3212.88)

1. If a specific place of employment has 100 employees or fewer, four employees test positive for COVID-19.
2. If a specific place of employment has more than 100 employees, four percent of the number of employees who reported to the specific place of employment test positive for COVID-19.
3. A specific place of employment is ordered to close by a local public health department, the California Department of Public Health, Cal/OSHA, or the Superintendent due to a risk of infection with COVID-19.

The Superintendent or designee may rebut a presumption that COVID-19 was contracted during the course and scope of employment by offering evidence to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, such as the measures that were in place at the employee's specific place of employment to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 and evidence of an employee's nonoccupational risk of contracting COVID-19. (Labor Code 3212.86, 3212.88)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44984 Industrial accident and illness leaves, certificated employees

45192 Industrial accident and illness leaves, classified employees

LABOR CODE

3200-4856 Workers' compensation, especially: 3212.86

COVID-19: critical workers pre-July 5, 2020

3212.88 COVID-19: critical workers post-July 5, 2020

3550-3553 Employee notice 3600-

3605 Conditions of liability 3760

Report of injury to insurer

4600 Provision of medical and hospital treatment by employer

4906 Disclosures and statements

5400-5413 Notice of injury or death

6302 Definition of serious injury or illness

6409.1 Reports

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

15596 Notice of employee rights to workers' compensation benefits