**MEMBER BULLETIN**

September 23, 2022

**Work-Related COVID-19 Claim Costs Will Now Impact WSIB Premium of Individual Employers**

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) recently announced a change to how it will cost COVID-19 related claims. **Effective July 1, 2022**, the cost of a COVID-19 related claim which arose on or after July 1, 2022, will be allocated to the individual Schedule 1 employer.

Prior to this change, the WSIB did not allocate the costs of a COVID-19 claim to the individual employer, but instead distributed those costs across all employers in Schedule 1.

In the past, many employers may not have challenged COVID-19 related claims because employers were not financially impacted on an individual level. This is no longer the case.

For a COVID-19 claim to be allowed, evidence must show the employee’s risk of contracting the disease through their employment is **greater than the risk to which the public at large is exposed** and that work **significantly contributed** to the employee’s illness.

If an employer disagrees with the WSIB’s decision the employer can challenge that decision. The deadline to file an intent to object to a decision is six months from the date of the decision.

In light of the WSIB’s new approach, employers should seriously consider challenging any WSIB decision in which there is evidence the employee contracted COVID-19 outside the workplace.

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If you have any questions about wsib changed, please contact Steven Crombie (905-629-7766 or steven.crombie@oswca.org).