

Workers' Compensation Benefits Available for California Workers Diagnosed with COVID-19

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order ([N-62-20](#)) Wednesday, May 6, 2020, extending workers' compensation benefits to workers who contract COVID-19 while on the job.

The order applies to all workers who are required to leave their homes to go in to their place of employment. The order does not apply to workers who elect to leave home but have the option to work remotely. Those eligible will have the rebuttable presumption of compensability of benefits if they meet the following:

- The employee tested positive for COVID-19 or were diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of performing work at the place of employment at the direction of the employer.
- The day on which the employee performed labor or services at the employee's place of employment at the employer's direction was on or after March 19, 2020.
- The diagnosis was done by a physician who holds a physician and surgeon license issued by the California Medical Board and that diagnosis is confirmed by further testing within 30 days of the date of the diagnosis.

The executive order is retroactive to March 19, 2020 (effective date of the stay at home order) and will last through July 5, 2020, for now.

Newsom announced the launch of a new [website](#) that focuses on getting California residents tested. The website allows state residents to make direct reservations for getting tested. The new section of testing locations is live on [COVID10.ca.gov](#)

California employers should review the [EEOC](#) guidelines related to ADA issues, and closely follow the [CDC](#) and [OSHA](#) guidelines for minimizing or preventing exposures in the workplace.

Petra Risk Solutions will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates as appropriate.