



Workers' Compensation COVID-19 Statistics – FAQs

1. How are COVID-19 cases reported to the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission?

There are two ways to report a possible COVID-19 workers' compensation case to the Commission.

- 1) An injured worker or his/her attorney can file a Claim for Benefits noting COVID-19 as the Nature of Injury.
- 2) A Claim Administrator who was made aware of a possible COVID-19 workers' compensation case, can file an EDI FROI transaction noting COVID-19 as the Nature of Injury.

2. What is the precise definition of a COVID-19 case?

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission uses WCIO Nature of Injury Codes for injuries that are reported by an employer, insurer or injured worker. WCIO adopted code 83 – COVID-19 in March of 2020. Their definition is "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus."

3. What is the difference between Total COVID-19 Cases Reported and Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed?

The number listed for **Total Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported** is the total number of Jurisdiction Claim Numbers (JCNs) the Commission has for reported COVID-19 cases.

The number listed for **Total Claim for Benefits Filed** is the total number of JCNs with COVID-19 as the Nature of Injury where a Claim for Benefits form was also filed by the injured worker or his/her attorney.

4. On the provided stats, is a COVID-19 Claim for Benefits a filed workers' compensation claim?

Yes, the **Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed** is the number of claim forms filed by the claimant or his/her attorney for workers' compensation benefits related to a COVID-19 diagnosis.

5. According to your website, only a portion of the overall COVID-19 cases with a Claim for Benefits filed have awards or denials. What is the current status of the remaining JCNs? Are they still being adjudicated?

There is no way to accurately answer this question without researching every JCN in which a Claim for Benefits was filed. Further consideration of a particular Claim for Benefits could be waiting for additional information, the Claim for Benefits could be on a hearing docket pending adjudication, the Claim for Benefits could have been withdrawn prior to adjudication, etc.

It is important to note that there isn't necessarily a correlation between the number of Claim for Benefits filed, awards entered and denials. When the data was pulled, the Commission looked for the number of JCNs with COVID-19 Nature of Injury codes, the number with COVID-19 and a denial by the Claim Administrator, the number of COVID-19 with an Award and the number of COVID-19 with a Claim for Benefits filed. Employers and insurers may deny claims and agree to awards even where the injured worker has not filed a Claim for Benefits. While some of the denials and awards listed in the totals may be in a JCN where a Claim for Benefits was filed, there is also a chance that is not the case at all.

6. For the monthly breakdown provided, is this the number of COVID-19 cases reported each month or the number with a Date of Injury date in that month?

The monthly breakdown shows the total number of COVID-19 JCNs with a Date of Injury in that month.

7. For Total COVID-19 Claims Awarded, is that by Opinion, by Award Agreement of the parties, or the combination of both?

For **Total COVID-19 Claims Awarded**, this is any JCN that has an Award entered and the Award can be entered by any means (Orders, Opinion, or Agreements).

8. For Total COVID-19 Claims Denied, is that a denial per an Opinion or a formal notification of denial by the employer/carrier?

For **Total COVID-19 Claims Denied**, this is the number of JCNs with an EDI Denial transaction filed by the Claim Administrator to indicate their denial of the case. It does not mean that the claims were denied by the Commission following adjudication. A claim can be denied by a Claim Administrator and still be awarded by the Commission.

9. Why is 'Total COVID-19 Claim Awards' not equal to the 'COVID-19 Claim Award Types' in the chart breakdown?

The Total COVID-19 Claim Awards is the total number of JCNs where an award has been entered. It is possible to have more than one award per JCN, which is why the Award Types breakdown shows more awards.

10. Data Reported- October 1, 2020

2020 COVID-19 Cases Reported	
January	1
February	4
March	941
April	1,630
May	1,238
June	1,282
July	1,127
August	736
September	321
TOTAL	7,280

2020 COVID-19 Claim Details	
Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	119
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	1,327
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	639
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	13

2020 COVID-19 Claim Award Types	
Original Award	99
Medical Only	16
Additional Award	1
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	3
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	3
Amended Original	2