

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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March [REDACTED] 2021

Date of Injury: [REDACTED]  
Employee: [REDACTED]  
Case #: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This notice is in reference to your previously submitted claim for exposure to COVID-19. You claimed that you were exposed to COVID-19 on [REDACTED] in the course of your employment with the DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. We received your claim on [REDACTED] 2020 and requested evidence to support your claim. We did not receive the necessary evidence to accept your claim; therefore, it was formally denied on [REDACTED] 2021.

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The new law makes it easier for federal workers diagnosed with COVID-19 to establish coverage under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). Section 4016 of the law provides that a federal employee who is diagnosed with COVID-19 and carried out duties that required contact with patients, members of the public, or co-workers, or included a risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus during a covered period of exposure prior to the diagnosis, is deemed to have an injury that is proximately caused by employment.

Your case will be reviewed by OWCP to determine whether your previously denied case can now be accepted based on this new legislation. We expect to complete this initial review within the next 30-45 days. There is no need to submit any additional documentation at this time. We will send you a letter notifying you of our finding.

Since your case is being re-reviewed under this new legislative authority, **we have assigned a new case number, shown above.** All documents previously submitted under your original claim have been moved to this new case. **Do not reference the prior case number on any documentation in the future since the prior case number has been inactivated in our database.** Refer only to this new case number.

You will also use this case number in our on-line self-service web portal, the Employees' Compensation Operations and Management Portal (ECOMP). If you are not yet using ECOMP, please register for an account at: <https://www.ecomp.dol.gov/> and then use ECOMP for written communication regarding your claim moving forward. Learn how to register for your ECOMP account by visiting us at: <https://www.ecomp.dol.gov/content/help/IW/>

*If you have a disability and are in need of communication assistance (such as alternate formats or sign language interpretation), accommodation(s) and/or modification(s), please contact OWCP.*

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File Number: [REDACTED]

COVID: [REDACTED]

To ensure we are protecting your personal information, we will ask you to verify your identity through our enhanced security measures. After verifying your identity the first time, you will be able to access the status of all of your FECA claims (if you have more than one), download a copy of your compensation payments, and check the status of any medical bills received and processed under your claim(s). You will also receive correspondence electronically on the date that it is issued by our office, rather than having to wait to receive it via the mail.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we work review previously denied COVID-19 claims to determine eligibility under this new legislation.

Sincerely,

Federal Employees Program

cc:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYING AGENCY:**

Please note the new case number above for this claim. You should use the new case number for all correspondence in the future and to review this case in ECOMP. This case will remain visible in all reports based on the existing chargeback code, but in accordance with Section 4016(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 the case will be flagged as non-chargeable in our database, meaning it will not be included in your annual chargeback billing.

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