The WSIB offers financial relief package for businesses

To help reduce the financial burden of the COVID-19 situation, the WSIB is providing financial relief to all Ontario businesses.

We will be offering a financial relief package—worth up to \$1.9 billion—to support businesses during this difficult period, while protecting coverage for the people we serve.

All businesses covered by our workplace insurance are automatically eligible for this package, and businesses will now be able to defer their WSIB premium reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. Benefit payments will continue for people with work-related injuries or illness.

How the financial relief package works

Businesses who report and pay monthly, quarterly or annually based on their insurable earnings are eligible for this deferral.

Each period reports and pays on the previous full month. For example, March 31 reporting and payment obligation covers the period of February 1-29. The following payments are eligible for deferral:

Monthly: March 31, April 30, May 31, June 30, July 31, Aug 31

Quarterly: April 30, July 31

Annual: April 30

The relief package also applies to Schedule 2 organizations: publicly funded organizations (municipalities, hospitals, school boards), and other businesses who are involved in federally regulated industries. All payment obligations (weekly and monthly) for Schedule 2 businesses will be deferred until August 31, 2020.

No interest will accrue on outstanding premium payments and no penalties will be charged during this six-month deferral period.

For more information, see our <u>financial relief package FAQs</u> page on our website. Businesses can continue to manage their accounts through our online services.

WSIB offices closed to the public

To help protect people from the spread of COVID-19, our offices will remain closed to the public during this time of public concern and we will not be receiving mail or courier packages. There are other ways we can help you:

• **Phone:** You can call us at 1-800-387-0750, Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please be prepared for the possibility of longer wait times.

- Online: You can use our <u>online services</u>, and <u>upload claim-related information online</u>. Our online services are the quickest way to send us information.
- Email: Employers can email us at employeraccounts@wsib.on.ca.
- Fax: For non-claim related information that you might normally mail, fax us at 416-344-4684 or 1-888-313-7373.

We continue to prioritize making sure that people continue to receive benefits and managing new claims.

We'll continue to monitor and follow the guidance of provincial and national health authorities, including the <u>Ontario Ministry of Health</u> and the <u>Public Health Agency of Canada</u>, to ensure we are able to protect the health and safety of our employees and continue to serve the people of Ontario.

Updates on our websites

The WSIB is making every effort to provide you with the assistance and information you need during this period of public concern. Please check our website for ongoing updates to this evolving situation.

Helpful resources

We all have a role to play in reducing the spread of infection. Measures developed for managing influenza outbreaks continue to be recommended by public health officials including:

- practice physical distancing as much as possible
- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand, and wash hands afterward
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- clean high-touch surfaces frequently

For additional information on COVID-19, please visit these sites:

- Ontario Ministry of Health
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Government of Canada Travel Advice and Advisory

We encourage all businesses to keep employees updated as new information becomes available, and follow public health guidance to keep everyone safe and healthy.

"What's New" - a newsletter by the Ministry of Labour

Stay updated on current news from the Ministry of Labour by subscribing to What's New. Delivered monthly to your inbox, this newsletter features the latest on occupational health and safety, employment standards and labour relations that could affect you and your workplace.

Click here to sign up for the "What's New" newsletter.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is here to help. When an injury or illness happens on the job, we move quickly to provide wage-loss benefits, medical coverage and support to help people get back to work. Funded by businesses, we also provide no-fault collective liability insurance and access to industry-specific health and safety information. We are one of the largest insurance organizations in North America covering over five million people in more than 300,000 workplaces across Ontario.