



MEA Member Benefits and Compensation Update

The New York City Managerial Employees Association is providing excerpts of the information released by DC37 Municipal Employees Legal Services (MELS), that are relevant to benefits our members can access to replace lost income due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Workers' Compensation

The NYC MEA urges its members, especially those classified as essential workers, frontline workers, and healthcare workers, who have contracted and are diagnosed with novel coronavirus (COVID-19), to apply for Workers' Compensation to secure partial wage replacement and medical care.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the New York State Workers' Compensation Board has extended the window to file a claim by an additional 30 days from the date of your injury or illness. The Workers' Compensation Board has not changed its rules or application process.

Any Manager seeking to file a Workers' Comp claim must notify their agency within 30 days of testing Positive for COVID-19 and provide medical documentation to substantiate their claim. Members must also file an Employee Claim (C-3) form with the NYS Workers' Compensation Board by mail or electronically. Please note that the fastest way to file is by completing the web version of the Employee Claim (C-3) form electronically. You may file a paper form by printing the Employee Claim (C-3) form. The paper Employee Claim (C-3) form must be mailed to the centralized mailing address for the NYS Workers' Compensation Board.

This is the centralized mailing address for all workers' compensation claims and claim-related documents:

**NYS Workers' Compensation Board
Centralized Mailing Address
PO Box 5205
Binghamton, NY 13902-5205**

If you decide to mail-in a paper Employee Claim (C-3) form, we strongly recommend that you maintain proof of mailing.

As a member's benefit, the MEA will provide legal representation in Workers' Compensation matters. If you contracted COVID-19 on the job or in the line of duty and need help or have questions about completing the Workers' Compensation paperwork, you may contact the MEA to request a referral for legal services. Since our office is currently closed until further notice, you may send your inquiry directly to the Executive Director Linda Barnes at lbarnes@nycmea.org. When our office re-opens, you may opt to reach the MEA by phone at (212) 964-0035, Monday to Friday, during normal business



hours. Depending on when the illness or injury occurred, the maximum benefit through June 30, 2020 is \$934.11 per week. From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the maximum benefit will be \$966.78 per week.

To file a Workers' Compensation claim and complete the Employee Claim (C-3) form, follow the directions at this link: <http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/onthejob/howto.jsp>.

For information on COVID-19 & Workers' Compensation Q&A, you may access this link: <http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/TheBoard/covid-19-workers-compensation-q-a-june-2020.pdf>

Short Term Disability

MEA members who are unable to continue working because of illness or disability may be eligible for short term disability. COVID-19 is a covered illness. If you are enrolled with the Voluntary Insurance Program for short term disability, you may file a claim and once you have satisfied the waiting period, you will continue through the process.

If you are interested in obtaining short term disability insurance, you can access the Benefits page on our web site www.nycmea.org and click on the Voluntary Insurance Program link to learn about this service, the cost, and how to enroll if you wish to proceed. New enrollees cannot receive benefits from pre-existing conditions. Once enrolled, you may file a claim for any new illness or disability.

Unemployment

Members who are out of work for long extended periods of time due to an illness or disability and have exhausted their Leave balances, may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

New York State Unemployment Insurance Benefits provide a partial wage replacement of up to \$504 per week for a 26-week period. Under the CARES Act, the benefit period has temporarily been extended an additional 13 weeks and recipients receive an additional \$600 per week. Applicants who have worked in New York must apply for UIB in New York regardless of the state in which they reside.

Follow the directions to apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits at this link: <https://dol.ny.gov/>

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On behalf of the NYC MEA's Organization/Compensation, Benefits and Professional Development Committee, the co-Chairs Edgar Landas and Tina Ramsey hope that you and your family stay safe and healthy during these unprecedented times, as well as, throughout the recovery period that will follow next.



Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth.

Wearing a mask, Saves Lives!