



WISCONSIN TOWNS
ASSOCIATION

Empowering Town Officials

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April 15, 2020

Workers Compensation following Act 185

Act 185 provides that, for the purposes of worker's compensation, where an injury to a first responder is found to be caused by COVID-19 during the public health emergency declared by the Governor on March 12, 2020, by Executive Order 72, and up to 30 days after the termination of the order, and where the employee has been exposed to persons with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the course of employment, the injury is presumed to be caused by the individual's employment. The presumption requires a diagnosis or positive test for COVID-19, and may be rebutted by specific evidence that the injury was caused outside of employment.

For purposes of this provision, a first responder is an employee of or volunteer for an employer that provides fire fighting, law enforcement, or medical treatment of COVID-19, and who has regular, direct contact with, or is regularly in close proximity to, patients or other members of the public requiring emergency services within the scope of the individual's work for the employer.