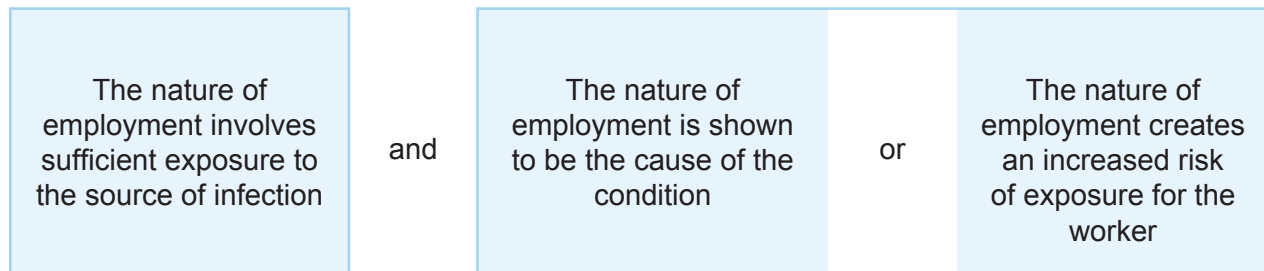


H1N1

Most instances of H1N1 Influenza are not work-related and should not be reported to WCB-Alberta. However, there are a few exceptions.

When H1N1 may be considered work-related

When a worker contracts H1N1 Influenza as a direct result of employment, the worker is entitled to compensation if the following conditions are met:



Work-related example	
Acute care hospital worker	Worker has patients coming in for treatment of H1N1. Thus, they are at a greater risk than the general public of contracting the disease.
Non work-related example	
A cafeteria worker at a hospital	Job is not directly related to looking after sick people even if workers sometimes come in contact with them.
Grocery store clerk	Job puts workers in contact with many people but not specifically with sick people.

Reference: Policy 03-01: Part II – Occupational Disease

In every case, WCB-Alberta will adjudicate work-relatedness and benefit entitlement based on the specific and unique circumstances of each case.

Questions and Answers

When do I report a claim of H1N1 to WCB-Alberta?

Like in the examples provided, if you are at “greater risk of exposure” at work than the general public and also lose time from work, then you and your employer need to report a claim to WCB-Alberta.

However, if you are NOT at greater risk of infection at work than the general public, do not report. Examples of this include; people who believe they caught the H1N1 Influenza from a coworker or client.

Am I covered or do I report if I catch H1N1 Influenza from a coworker who sneezed or coughed on me?

No. Influenza and particularly a pandemic influenza like H1N1 can be caught through many different contacts in the community, home or work. This case would not be considered work-related.

Do I report if I had H1N1 influenza but the problem is related to its treatment?

Yes, if you had H1N1 Influenza that would have been considered work-related due to your increased work risk, the treatment complications are also considered work-related.

If I am sent home to avoid getting sick, do I need to report to WCB?

No, only time loss claims for H1N1 (when they meet eligibility conditions) must be reported to WCB-Alberta. If there is no illness, there is no claim.

Will WCB accept H1N1 claims where there are symptoms but no medical reporting to confirm an actual diagnosis of H1N1?

Yes, because there are so many cases of possible H1N1 most doctors will not see patients for symptoms, unless they are severe.

It is recommended that you remain home until the symptoms have resolved, normally five to seven days. If your symptoms persist or become worse, seek medical treatment and have that reporting forwarded to WCB.

What happens when an H1N1 claim is submitted?

Like any other claim, WCB-Alberta will determine if the exposure to the disease arose out of employment and was caused by an employment hazard (in this case, workplace exposure to the virus).

We have a team of people who specialize in the adjudication of infectious disease claims and can apply policy and legislation. If the illness meets the conditions for coverage, WCB will cover your medical aid costs and any time lost because of the condition.