



Recently, the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police requested an Executive Order from Governor Beshear regarding presumptive coverage for first responders diagnosed with COVID-19. The illness was requested to be covered just as any other duty related injury. The Kentucky Sheriff's Association and the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police signed on in support of this request stating that now more than ever, we must support our men and women on the front lines. We are proud to be members of Team Kentucky and applaud the Governor's team centered approach to dealing with the pandemic. We know that everyone must do their part, and first responders are vital for surviving this pandemic. Governor Beshear issued the following [Executive Order 2020-277](#) declaring that any first responders testing positive for COVID-19 be presumed to be duty related during this declared State of Emergency. All medical treatment will be covered as would normally be for any duty related injury.

Below is information from the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police Counsel, which notes the importance of continued documentation of exposures or potential exposures.

*"The Governor has issued an Executive Order indicating that claims of First Responders for Temporary Total Disability and medical expenses benefits under Workers' Compensation arising from COVID-19 are to be processed and paid regardless of whether the claim is ultimately determined to be compensable under WC. Payment is to begin immediately for TTD. The Department of Workers Claims has advised that if taken off work by spouse/significant other, etc. contracting COVID-19, the employee is not eligible for benefits.*

*First responders should document their claim as they would any claim and keep all information pertaining to the line of duty aspect of the diagnosis of COVID-19."*

Most experts agree that the virus will continue to spread. Our first responders do not have the option to work from home. While we attempt to limit our person to person contact and exposure, eliminating exposure is just not possible. As a result, we know that there is greater probability we will be exposed and contract the virus. Just as we do in all other life-threatening situations, we will push forward and protect the people of the Commonwealth. No different from those who have been killed or fallen to injury before us. We do not take our responsibility lightly.

Now, more than ever before, we recognize the need to protect our first responders as they continue to put their lives in harm's way for the citizens of the Commonwealth. These brave men and women understand the risks but continue to bravely serve our Commonwealth and all citizens. Presumptive coverage for our first responders was the right thing to do!