

Information for employees

What should I do if I, or one of my colleagues, contract COVID-19 through work?

Dear colleagues,

If you or one of your colleagues contract COVID-19, it is important to notify the respective employer's liability insurance association (Berufsgenossenschaften) or accident insurance fund (Unfallkasse). Otherwise, it will not be possible to have your COVID-19 sickness recognised as an occupational accident or disease. The notification is essential to ensure that you are covered by the statutory accident insurance and will receive better treatment and better financial support than through your statutory health insurance.

You will have to prove that you contracted COVID-19 at your workplace. It is therefore crucial that you notify the **accident insurance fund or the employer's liability insurance**

- if several employees in your department are infected with COVID-19
- if you have treated / cared for infected patients / residents / children
- if you have had any contact with infected employees or customers.

Notification

If you suspect that you have been infected at work, your employer is obliged to notify **the employer's liability insurance association or accident insurance fund** of this suspected occupational disease or accident. This is referred to as 'suspected illness/accident report'. Your employer is required by law (specifically Section 193 para. 2 of the German Social Code 7 + Section 16 of the German Biomedical Regulation) to submit this suspected illness/accident report. If your employer fails to do this, for whatever reason, you can also contact your company medical officer or an accident insurance consultant. Accident insurance consultants are the doctors in charge of occupational accidents. Your normal GP is not the responsible doctor in this situation.

If your employer fails to submit the report, you can do it yourself: An email or letter to the responsible employer's liability insurance association or accident insurance fund containing the sentence "I hereby request recognition of my infection with Covid-19, which I contracted during my work, as an occupational disease" is sufficient.

Alternatively, you can use the following online forms:
Occupational accident: <https://www.dguv.de/de/ihr-partner/unternehmen/unfallanzeige/index.jsp>
Occupational disease: www.dguv.de/bk-info/index.jsp

The employer's liability insurance association or accident insurance fund will then verify whether or not your infection can be recognised as an occupational accident or disease.

Benefits

The statutory accident insurance will exclusively pay salary replacement, treatment and recuperation costs as well as re-training costs or a pension, where necessary, (in the event of reduced earning capacity or for surviving dependants), if the **employer's liability insurance association or accident insurance fund** recognises your infection as an occupational accident or disease.

Long Covid

Science has not yet conclusively established the complications that may persist after a COVID-19 infection. At present, scientists suspect that there may be neurological complications and damage to the lungs and the heart.

It is therefore essential that you report your infection to the employer's liability insurance association or accident insurance fund.

The ver.di union is working to get COVID-19 recognised as an occupational disease!

Further information for employees infected with COVID-19 is available at www.arbeitsmarkt-und-sozialpolitik.verdi.de
If you have any questions, please contact: migration@verdi.de

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