



COMPENSATION RATING AND INSPECTION BUREAU

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PAUL G. WITKO
Executive Director

April 21, 2020

STATISTICAL CIRCULAR #127

To: All Bureau Members and Subscribers

Re: COVID-19 -- Statistical Plan Changes

The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance has approved amendments to the New Jersey Statistical Plan, which is found in Part Three, Section 13 (or 3:13) of the New Jersey Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance Manual (Manual). The changes set forth in this Statistical Circular Letter are issued concurrently with [Manual Amendment Bulletin #495](#).

Amend Sections 3:13-55 and -88 to add codes specifically for the reporting and tracking of COVID-19 related claims. The amended codes are as follows:

- Nature of Injury: 83 - COVID-19
- Cause of Injury: 83 - Pandemic
- Catastrophe Number: 12 – COVID-19
 - Beginning Accident Date: December 2019
 - Ending Accident Date: Yet to be determined

The changes are effective immediately.

All attached changes to the Manual rules are indicated in **red**.

Paul G. Witko
Executive Director

PGW:njl
Att.

Effective April 20, 2020

and is not traceable to a definite compensable accident occurring during the employee's employment. The injury occurs from, and is aggravated by, a repetitive employment-related activity.

53C. Type of Recovery.

- 01—No Recovery
- 02—Second Injury Fund Only
- 03—Subrogation Only (Third Party)
- 04—Subrogation with Second Injury Fund (Third Party)

53D. Type of Claim.

- 01—Workers Compensation (Part One) Only.** Claim incurred under provisions of Part One of Workers Compensation & Employers Liability Insurance Policy.
- 02—Employers Liability (Part Two) Only.** Claim incurred under provisions of Part Two of Workers Compensation & Employers Liability Insurance Policy.
- 03—Combination of Workers Compensation (Part One) & Employers Liability (Part Two).** Claim incurred under provisions of both Part One and Part Two of Workers Compensation & Employers Liability Insurance Policy.
- 04—Liability Over.** Refers to a particular Employer's Liability coverage situation where a third party, who is being sued by an employee, in turn sues the employer. Any damages incurred to the employer are classified as liability over, and are in addition to compensation payments made to the injured employee.

53E. Type of Settlement.

- 00—Claim not subject to settlement
- 03—Stipulated Award (carrier/claimant settlement)
- 04—Findings and Award (judicial award)
- 05—Dismissal or take nothing
- 06—Compromise Settlement (N.J.S.A. 34:15-20)
- (a) Stipulated Award.** A settlement agreed to by the claimant and the carrier.
- (b) Finding and Award.** An award issued by a Judge of Compensation on evidence presented.
- (c) Dismissal or Take Nothing.** A claim dismissed after judicial review or the claimant fails to pursue the claim.
- (d) Compromise-Section 20.** A judicial settlement over the issues of applicability and extent of injury in accordance with N.J.S.A. 34:15-20.

54. Jurisdiction State. Report the two-digit state code to identify the jurisdiction that will administer the claim and whose statute will apply to the claim adjustment process when the jurisdiction state is not New Jersey (29) but New Jersey is indicated in the exposure state.

55. Catastrophe Number. Any accident resulting in a compensable injury to two or more persons shall be considered a catastrophe. In reporting catastrophes, all claims (indemnity as well as medical only) resulting from the accident shall be designated by reporting the Catastrophe Number as "01". If there is more than one catastrophe under the policy, each succeeding catastrophe shall be designated by means of a serial number (02), (03), etc., up to and including (10). After the number (10) is assigned the next number in the sequence will reprocess to number (01). Numbers (11) through (99) are reserved for assigned catastrophe codes.

★ **Definition/Exception.** Report Catastrophe Number 12 for all claims attributable to COVID-19 Coronavirus with Accident Dates of December 1, 2019 and subsequent.

56. Managed Care Organization Type. Report the two-digit code to identify if the claim is or is not administered by an Approved Managed Care Organization.

- 00—Claim not administered by an approved managed care organization program.
- 01—Claim is administered by an approved managed care organization program.

57. Injury Description Codes. Beginning with policies effective January 1, 2006 and for all policies effective thereafter, report the two-digit codes that represent the Part of Body, Nature of Injury and Cause of Injury for all claims except for closed medical only claims that can be grouped in accordance with 3:13-46 of this Manual. The Injury Description Codes should not be completed for the closed medical only claims that can be grouped. The Injury Description Codes are not required for any claim from policies effective prior to January 1, 2006. The two-digit codes for Part of Body, Nature of Injury and Cause of Injury can be found in the Injury Description Code Table in 3:13-88 of this Manual.

58. Occupation Description. Report a narrative description of the regular occupation of the injured worker.

59. Paid Indemnity. Report the whole dollar amount of paid indemnity for the claim as of the loss valuation date. These losses consist of all paid benefits due to an employee's lost wages or inability to work, including compensation paid to a deceased prior to death, burial expense, claimant's attorney fees, vocational rehabilitation benefits, payments to the state and employers liability losses and expenses.

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INJURY DESCRIPTION CODE TABLE

★ See 3:13-57 for the proper use of this table.

Code	NATURE OF INJURY	Narrative Description
76.	VDT-Related Diseases	Video Display Terminal Diseases Other than Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
77.	Mental Stress	
78.	Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	Soreness, Tenderness and Weakness of the Muscles of the Thumb Caused by Pressure on the Median Nerve at the Point at which it Goes through the Carpal Tunnel of the Wrist
79.	Hepatitis C	
80.	All Other Cumulative Injury, NOC	
★ 83.	COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus.
III.	MULTIPLE INJURIES	
90.	Multiple Physical Injuries Only	
91.	Multiple Injuries Including Both Physical and Psychological	

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INJURY DESCRIPTION CODE TABLE

★ See 3:13-57 for the proper use of this table.

Code	CAUSE OF ACCIDENT	Narrative Description
50.	Motor Vehicle, NOC	
VI. STRAIN or INJURY BY		
52.	Continual Noise	
53.	Twisting	
54.	Jumping	
55.	Holding or Carrying	
56.	Lifting	
57.	Pushing or Pulling	
58.	Reaching	
59.	Using Tool or Machinery	
60.	Strain or Injury By, NOC	
61.	Welding or Throwing	
97.	Repetitive Motion	Carpel Tunnel Syndrome
VII. STRIKING AGAINST or STEPPING ON		
65.	Moving Part of Machine	
66.	Object Being Lifted or Handled	
67.	Sanding, Scraping, Cleaning Operation	
68.	Stationary Object	
69.	Stepping on Sharp Object	
70.	Striking Against or Stepping On, NOC	
VIII. STRUCK or INJURED BY – INCLUDES KICKED, STABBED, BIT, ETC.		
74.	Fellow Worker, Patient	Not in Act of a Crime
75.	Falling or Flying Object	
76.	Hand Tool or Machine in Use	
77.	Motor Vehicle	
78.	Moving Parts of Machine	
79.	Object Being Lifted or Handled	
80.	Object Handled By Others	
81.	Struck or Injured by, NOC	Includes Kicked, Stabbed, Bit, Etc., Not in Act of Crime
★ 83.	Pandemic	Includes disease epidemic that has spread across a large region.
85.	Animal or Insect	
86.	Explosion or Flare Back	
IX. RUBBED or ABRADED BY		
94.	Repetitive Motion	Callous, Blister, Etc.
95.	Rubbed or Abraded, NOC	