California: Workers’ Compensation

Description of Program and Relief
As part of its ongoing state benefits programs for workers, the State of California provides for workers’ compensation benefits when a worker has been injured while performing his or her job duties. These state-provided benefits are also available to otherwise eligible employees who are unable to perform their usual job functions because they have been exposed to and/or have contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of business.

Government or Lead Agency
State of California, Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)

Dates Available
Ongoing

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions
For guidance on eligibility requirements, please see below for a list of resources. Generally, in order to be eligible for these benefits, a treating doctor must provide a note that the employee is unable to perform his or her usual job functions for more than three days or the employee must be hospitalized overnight, and while the employee recovers, the employer must not offer alternate work that pays his or her usual wages.

Deadlines (If Applicable)
Workers’ compensation claim should be filed no earlier than the first day that family leave begins, but no later than 41 days after such family leave begins.

Contact for More Information
The Division of Workers’ Compensation may be contacted at dwc@dir.ca.gov.

List of Additional Information
Summary of benefits: https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/#chart
Additional guidance on obtaining workers’ compensation: https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/InjuredWorker.htm
How to file a workers’ compensation claim: https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/FileAClaim.htm