



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Workers' Compensation Board

2601 25th St SE, Ste 150

Salem, OR 97302-1280

503-378-3308

1-877-311-8061

www.wcb.oregon.gov

December 17, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

As we move towards the new year, I am grateful for what we have learned and accomplished during 2021, I look forward to the year ahead. We have really come a long way since we were first faced with the Covid-19 pandemic. We will stay the course going forward in following sound safety and scientific practices.

The State of Oregon was aiming for a January 1, 2022, reopening date, but as of today, that date has been pushed back indefinitely. For WCB, here is what you can expect in the new year.

Hearings Division Processes

As mentioned at our Workers' Compensation Annual meeting in October, we are extending the current method of holding hearings and mediations into the new year. As such, through June 30, 2022, all WCB hearings and mediations will continue to be conducted either as telephonic or video proceedings. In addition, as implemented on October 1, 2021, parties can submit a request that a proceeding be conducted in person. Requests for such proceedings are centralized with PALJ Dougherty and Assistant PALJ Monte Marshall. For process specifics, please refer to our [website](#) or PALJ Dougherty's September 29, 2021, email.

We will send out additional communications in an effort to provide as much advance notice as possible, should any of these processes or dates change.

Entry in to WCB Facilities

Authorized staff members, visitors, and members of the public should not enter the building if they are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms. If you are scheduled for an in-person event, and a person who is to be in attendance is ill, please contact the assigned ALJ's office as soon as possible. Masking is required within our buildings.

Electronic Submissions

WCB will continue use of Biscom for secure electronic file transfer where approved by the assigned ALJ, through June 30, 2022.

Moving Forward

We are still reviewing our processes for moving forward, keeping in mind: 1) carrying out our mission of timely and impartially resolving workers' compensation disputes and achieving substantial justice, and 2) supporting the state of Oregon's public safety and recovery efforts and goals. As always, please feel free to reach out to myself at connie.l.wold@wcb.oregon.gov, or PALJ Dougherty at joy.m.dougherty@wcb.oregon.gov, with any questions or concerns.

Again, on behalf of all of us at WCB, we wish you the best as we move into 2022.

Connie

CONSTANCE L. WOLD (she/her/hers)
Board Chair
Workers' Compensation Board
2601 25th St. SE, Ste 150
Salem, OR 97302-1280
Phone: (503) 378-3308
Facsimile: (503) 373-1684