

# BWC delivers billions of dollars, millions of masks for Ohio employers and workforce to mitigate COVID-19 impact

## *Latest: Governor Mike DeWine proposes \$1.5 billion dividend for Ohio employers*

- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine is asking the board for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to send **up to \$1.5 billion to Ohio employers this fall** to ease the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on Ohio's economy and business community.
- BWC's board of directors will vote on this proposal Sept. 25.
- If approved, this is our second dividend of \$1 billion or more since April and our third since 2019, all at the governor's urging.
  - All told, this equals **\$4.3 billion since 2019**.
- Checks could start going out in **late October**.
- This proposed dividend equals approximately **100% of the premiums employers paid in policy year 2019**.
- BWC will **apply the dividend to an employer's outstanding balances first, including recent installment deferrals**. Any amounts exceeding outstanding balances will be sent to the employer. For those employers, it means one less bill to worry about.
- **Employers must complete their true up for the 2019** policy year by Oct. 2, 2020, in order to be eligible for the dividend.
- As in previous years, **the dividend is possible due to strong investment returns on employer premiums, a declining number of claims each year, and prudent fiscal management**. It's also due to employers who work hard to improve workplace safety and reduce injury claims.

See below for details on BWC's masks initiative, [\*\*Protecting Ohio's Workforce — We've Got You Covered\*\*](#).

# Masks

- BWC's Board of Directors voted Friday (Aug. 21) to approve Gov. DeWine's request that we **distribute a second round of face coverings** (masks) to Ohio employers and their workforce as part of our **Protecting Ohio's Workforce — We've Got You Covered** initiative.
- Since May, we **have shipped 20.6 million masks to 197,000 employers** under this initiative.
  - o In a second round, we will ship **approximately 23 million masks** to employers to replace masks that have exhausted their effective use.
- This is to **minimize the spread of COVID-19**. As you know, state and federal public health experts say wearing a mask decreases the risk of a carrier spreading the coronavirus to others.
- We are not billing employers for these masks. This comes at no extra charge to their premiums.
- We are working hard to purchase as many of these masks as possible from manufacturers here in Ohio.

For more on COVID-19 as it relates to BWC, [visit our FAQ page](#) at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov). For the latest on COVID-19 in Ohio, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).