

Clarity for Members over VPS Guidance

The [COVID MOU](#) is posted on the VEA website under the documents tab (www.vancouverea.org)



VEA recognizes that the guidance VPS HR e-mailed last Wednesday titled “*Information about leave for COVID-19 related reasons,*” was confusing. After discussing the messaging and linked forms/information sheets with VPS HR, VEA recommends the following:

1. **Regardless of the VPS forms or whether VPS tells you that you were a “close contact,” if you:**
 - a. **Are directed to quarantine by the District, a healthcare provider, or public health agency and/or**
 - b. **Are diagnosed with COVID,**
 - c. **Please send an e-mail to Nancy Scott in Benefits at Nancy.scott@vansd.org and advise that you want to file a claim for Workers’ Compensation and request the form.**

*With the confusion over these forms, it is in employees’ best interests to simply file a Workers’ Compensation claim. If the claim is approved, employees may be entitled to:

1) Up to 2 days of paid administrative leave if directed to quarantine, and up to 7 days of paid administrative leave if diagnosed with COVID;

2) Medical, disability, and time-loss benefits through Washington L&I (see Q&A: <https://lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/common-questions-about-presumptive-coverage-for-health-care-and-frontline-workers>). Educators are “frontline workers” per L&I and there is a (rebuttable) presumption of exposure to COVID in the workplace!

***What if I used my own paid or unpaid leave to quarantine/get testing or was diagnosed with COVID before the MOU was signed? Please follow the process above (file a Workers’ Compensation claim and submit the District’s Leave Form for **at-work Exposure**.*

2. **In addition to #1, if you believe you were exposed to COVID at work, complete the District’s Leave Form for at-work Exposure and applicable documents (COVID test result, doctor’s note, etc) and submit to HR via e-mail at: nicole.dornan@vansd.org .**
3. If the leave request is more than 5 days (for **non-work related COVID exposure**), complete the District’s Leave Form for **more than 5 workdays**.

Please note, if you are able to work and are in quarantine, caring for someone with COVID or COVID symptoms, at high-risk or are caring for someone who is high-risk, or have children affected by school closures due to COVID, and wish to have an alternative work assignment at home, you may make such requests to your administrator.