

State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS Brian Hayes, Administrator

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Notice of the Office of Worker's Compensation Hearings

Yesterday Governor Evers signed Executive Order #72, declaring a public health emergency in the State of Wisconsin related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Based upon this evolving public health emergency, **as of the week of March 23, 2020**, the Office of Worker's Compensation Hearings will stop conducting in-person hearings, prehearings, and mediations until further notice. Hearings will be converted to settlement conferences. Conference calls will be conducted between the attorneys and the presiding ALJ's. Prehearings will be conducted by conference call as well. Mediations will be held by telephone or video conference. **The times and dates of these prehearings, hearings and mediations will not change.**

You will receive revised notices for the prehearings and settlement conferences, and call-in instructions for the mediations. The presiding ALJ may be in contact with you prior to the settlement conference or prehearing date to discuss arrangements for the conference call. Currently, the Office of Worker's Compensation Hearings anticipates resuming in-person proceedings in the week of April 20, 2020, but that date is not fixed and may be revised as circumstances warrant.

Please note, **the pre-hearings, hearings and mediations scheduled for next week**, the week of March 16 to 20, 2020 remain as scheduled. Please advise the presiding ALJ in advance if there are any concerns regarding parties or witnesses appearing in person.