

## ICCTA Legislative Report

April 15, 2020

Using his emergency rulemaking powers, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Monday that essential workers in Illinois who contract COVID-19 will now be covered by workers' compensation. This drastic rule change (adopted with less than 24 hours' notice) could significantly increase costs and require employers to pay for medical expenses and salary benefits if an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19. Proof the illness was contracted at the workplace is not required, as exposure will be "rebuttably presumed" to have arisen during the course of employment and "rebuttably presumed" to be causally connected to the hazards of COVID-19 essential work.

The text of the Emergency Amendment can be found here:

[https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/iwcc/news/Documents/13APR20-Emergency\\_Amendment\\_Only-50IAC9030\\_70.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/iwcc/news/Documents/13APR20-Emergency_Amendment_Only-50IAC9030_70.pdf).

The essential workers (termed "COVID-19 First Responder or Front-Line Worker") covered under this emergency rule include: ... *the crucial personnel identified under the following headings in Section 1 Part 12 of Executive Order 2020-10 dated March 20, 2020: ... "Educational institutions"; ... "Day care centers for employees exempted by [Executive Order 2020-10]"....*

Gov. Pritzker also signed another Executive Order on Tuesday that impacts the ability to garnish wages and collect debt. [Executive Order 2020-25](#) suspends new summons for wage garnishment and deductions, as well as citations to discover assets for debt collection, for the duration of Illinois' disaster proclamation prompted by the coronavirus.

*For community college-specific information on the COVID-19 crisis, visit the Illinois Community College Board's [Coronavirus: Guidance and Resources](#) page.*

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