

# BUSINESS INSURANCE & CORONAVIRUS: HOW WILL YOUR POLICIES RESPOND?

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# **PRESENTERS**



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### AGENDA

- PROPERTY/BUSINESS INTERRUPTION
- LIABILITY INSURANCES
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- MITIGATION

# DISCLAIMER

- POLICY LANGUAGE
  - JURISDICITON
- CASE LAW
  - INSURERS WILL NOT CONFIRM COVERAGE FOR HYPOTHETICALS
- WE CAN'T CONFIRM OR DENY COVERAGE

# PROPERTY & BUSINESS INTERRUPTION



Typically requires a physical loss or damage caused by an insured peril

Diseases and viruses are not insured perils



A manufacturer is unable to operate due to 35% of workers being sick.

No coverage

You're a vendor for the NBA and are effective by the season postponement.

No coverage





A senior living center has been cordoned off by police and only key employees and medical staff may enter.

Civil authority coverage still needs a covered peril



# CONTINGENT BUSINESS INTERRUPTION



Provides insurance for financial losses resulting from disruptions to a business's customers or suppliers, usually requiring that the underlying cause of damage to the customer or supplier be of a type covered with respect to the business's own property.



Requires a covered peril to trigger.



US manufacturer relies on special spring made from Wuhan China and has not received a shipment in 5 weeks. Causing \$1M lost revenue per week.

Not covered- Needs a covered peril to trigger coverage



# PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY



Protects against damages that the health care provider is required to pay for bodily injury arising out of the provision of, or failure to provide, medical services and to defend against such allegations.



Dependent on policy language Potential defense based on certain allegations



Multiple residents at a senior living center contract Coronavirus and pass away. Suit is brought forth for negligence among other allegations.

- Dependent on policy language
- Potential defense based on certain allegations



# GENERAL LIABILITY



Businesses could face claims by infected guests that they allegedly failed to exercise reasonable care in guarding against, or warning of, the risk of exposure to coronavirus.



Server coughs in direction of a guest. That guest later is diagnosed with Coronavirus and files a claim for damages.

- Dependent on policy language
- Potential defense based on certain allegations



# DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY



A company's directors and officers may be subjected to shareholder lawsuits alleging that their unreasonable actions (or inaction) in response to coronavirus or other infectious disease epidemics caused the company economic loss.



Company disregards CDC warnings and sends employees to Wuhan, China on business. When they return, they transmit virus to large portion of workforce and revenue decreases.

- Dependent on policy language
- Potential defense based on certain allegations



### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

# QUESTION: COULD COVID-19 BE CLASSIFIED AS "OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS" & TRIGGER WC COVERAGE?

Two conditions must be satisfied for illness or disease to be compensable under WC:

- The illness must be occupational meaning it "arose out of and was in the course and scope of employment"
- The illness or disease must have been derived by conditions distinctive to the work conditions

#### **Condition 1: Course and Scope of Employment**

- Was the employee advancing the business interests of the employer at the time of exposure?
- Mandatory travel to, or permanently stationed in, high risk exposure areas?
- Healthcare workers have the greatest risk
- Subject to varying state laws

#### **Condition 2: Distinctive to Work Conditions**

- Disease is exclusive to a certain field/industry (coal miners, etc.)
- Increased exposure to the disease due to working conditions

ANSWER: Not Likely

Despite its increasing attention, it is no more occupational than the flu



A registered nurse who cares for patients daily in a nursing home facility contracts Coronavirus from a patient who tested positive for the disease

Likely Compensable





An office employee at a manufacturing plant attends a gathering over the weekend and is in contact with the disease. She begins exhibiting symptoms on Monday morning at work.

Not Compensable





An administrative employee of a hospital, who does not interact with patients as part of her normal working conditions, tests positive for the disease.

 Compensability would depend on a variety of factors considered by the court of jurisdiction



### MITIGATION

- FOLLOW CDC, WHO, AND/OR GOVERNING BODIES
- CLEAN PREMISES
- KEEP STAFF INFORMED OF DEVELOPING INFORMATION
- REPORT CLAIMS WHEN IN DOUBT
- DOCUMENT COMMUNICATION & ACTIONS

### **TAKEAWAYS**

COVERAGE IS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL

- WHEN IN DOUBT, REPORT THE CLAIM
- FOLLOW CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

DOCUMENT ACTIONS TAKEN





bks-partners.com/bks-partners-covid-19-resources/

ALSO LINKED ON OUR HOMEPAGE



