

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The new law makes it easier for federal workers diagnosed with COVID-19 to establish coverage under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). [Section 4016](#) of the law provides that a federal employee who is diagnosed with COVID-19 and carried out duties that required contact with patients, members of the public, or co-workers, or included a risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus during a covered period of exposure prior to the diagnosis, is deemed to have an injury that is proximately caused by employment. [FECA Bulletin 21-09](#) (Processing FECA Claims for COVID-19 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021), issued on April 28, 2021, provides more detail on claims processing and requirements.

The impacts of this provision are as follows:

1. Any COVID-19 claim filed under the FECA that was accepted for COVID-19 prior to March 12, 2021, is **not** impacted because coverage for benefits has already been extended.
2. Any COVID-19 claim filed under the FECA that was denied or withdrawn prior to March 12, 2021, is eligible for review under the new eligibility requirements.
3. Any COVID-19 claim filed under the FECA on or after March 12, 2021, will be reviewed solely under the new eligibility requirements.

What this Means to You

1. **If you previously filed a COVID-19 claim under the FECA that was accepted by OWCP**, you can expect no change.
2. **If you previously filed a COVID-19 claim under the FECA that was denied by OWCP based on a lack of federal exposure or a lack of medical evidence establishing causal relationship**, we have now either accepted your case or requested additional information from you in order to consider your case further.

- 3. If you have never filed a COVID-19 claim under the FECA and you believe you have contracted COVID-19 as a result of your federal employment, you will need to file a CA-1 (Federal Employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation) through the Employees' Compensation Operations and Management Portal (ECOMP). You can access ECOMP at: <https://www.ecomp.dol.gov>. If you are unable to access ECOMP please contact your employing agency for assistance with filing your claim.**

Source: DOL-OWCP website