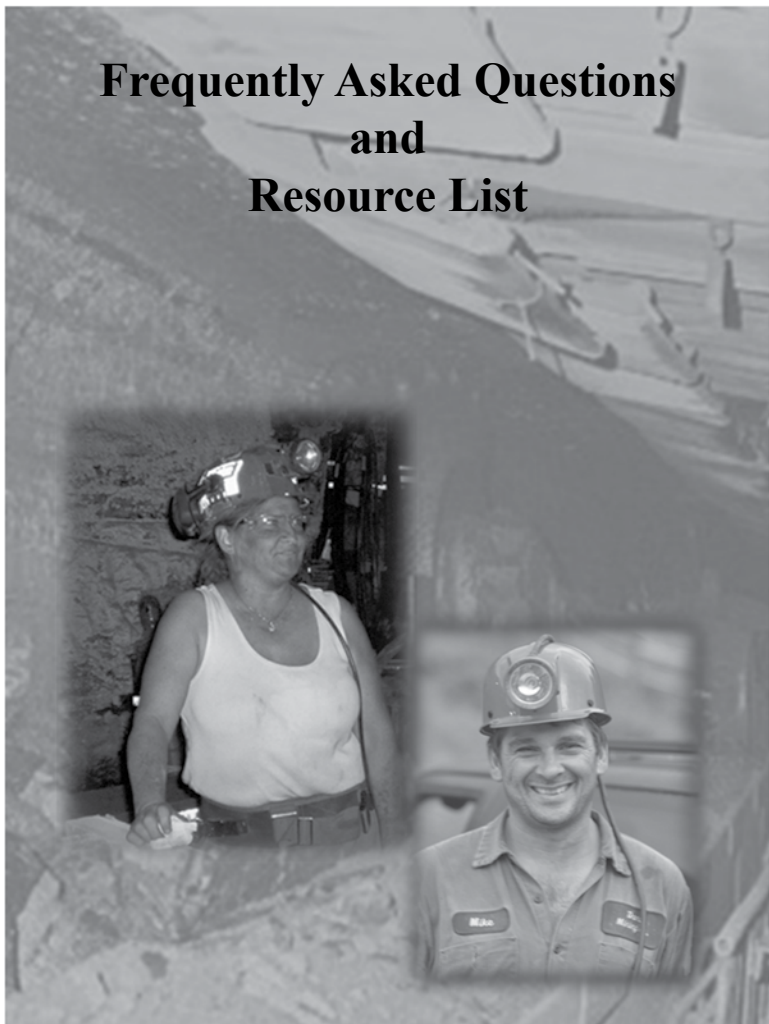


Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program

Frequently Asked Questions and Resource List





NIOSH

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/surveillance/ords/coalworkershealthsurvprogram.html>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FAQs:

What is Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis?	4
How can I know whether I have black lung?	5
To whom does NIOSH send this medical report?	6
How can I learn more about my transfer options?	6
What if I have any symptoms or health concerns?	7
How can I learn about Federal disability benefits or compensation?	8
How can I learn about State disability or compensation?	9
How can I get a copy of my X-ray or find out more about my x-ray report?	9

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO:

MSHA District Offices	10
Black Lung Benefits Offices	1
Black Lung & QJFV	1
State Offices of Workers' Compensation	1

What is Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis?

Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis is a lung disease caused by inhaling coal mine dust. Although some miners never develop the disease, others may develop the early signs after less than 10 years of mining experience.

According to recent studies by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), about one of every 20 miners participating in our program has X-ray evidence of some pneumoconiosis.

In its early stages, called simple pneumoconiosis, the disease may not prevent you from working or carrying on most normal activities. In some miners, the disease progresses from simple to complicated pneumoconiosis, a condition called progressive massive fibrosis.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for the damage that the dust has already done to your lungs. However, preventing Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis is among the highest priorities in protecting the health of the coal miner. It is an effort that requires the commitment of you, the miner, as well as the coal mine operator.

How can I know whether I have Black Lung?

Pneumoconiosis may be detected on chest x-rays. The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, has created two x-ray programs.

The first program is for new coal miners and requires that when you begin working in underground coal mining, you must be offered a chest X-ray, either as part of a pre-placement physical examination or within six months after being hired. Three years later you must be offered a second chest X-ray. If this second examination reveals evidence of pneumoconiosis, you must be offered a third chest X-ray two years after the second.

The second program is for all miners working in an underground coal mine. You must be offered a chest X-ray approximately every five years during a six-month time period arranged by the coal mine and approved by NIOSH.

What else might the X-ray examination tell me?

In addition to providing an indication of whether or not you have pneumoconiosis, the X-ray examination may also reveal evidence of other medical disorders. Heart problems and certain other diseases such as tuberculosis and lung cancer may be detected through a chest X-ray.

To whom does NIOSH send the medical report?

No one will be notified of the results without your written permission.

How can I learn more about my transfer options?

If your chest X-ray indicates definite evidence of “BLACK LUNG,” you will receive a letter offering you a transfer option. The transfer option gives you the right to work at a job in the mine where the dust concentration is not more than 1.0 milligram per cubic meter of air. It is possible that the dust exposure on your current job already meets that level and you would not be entitled to a transfer.

If you exercise this transfer option, the coal company that you work for will be notified by MSHA. Before you exercise your transfer option, we recommend that you contact the MSHA District Office nearest you to discuss specifics and details about transfer options (see enclosed resource list).

What if I have any symptoms or health concerns?

If you have shortness of breath, cough or any other health concerns, we suggest you ask your doctor about them right away. Also, contact your doctor if the X-ray report mentions a health condition that requires medical follow-up, testing or treatment.

If you don't have a regular doctor, you can find a doctor who knows about mining-related health problems at one of the U.S. Government-supported Black Lung Clinics. These clinics typically offer benefits counseling, treatment and testing, including chest X-rays, laboratory services, pulmonary function testing and education about respiratory diseases for miners and their families. Active, inactive and retired coal miners who suffer from chronic respiratory diseases are eligible for such services. Services vary from clinic to clinic, so check with your nearest Black Lung Clinic (listed in this booklet) for specifics.

How can I learn about Federal disability benefits or compensation?

If you have been told by a physician that you have pneumoconiosis or other lung problems, you may have questions about whether you are eligible for any compensation from the Federal Government.

The Federal Black Lung Benefits Program is completely separate from the State Workers' Compensation programs. Some miners may qualify for one program and not the other. The Federal program provides payments and medical treatment to coal miners who are totally disabled from pneumoconiosis (Black Lung) arising from their employment in or around the nation's coal mines. In select cases, payments may be paid to eligible surviving dependents.

To find out about your eligibility for Federal Black Lung Benefits, contact the nearest Black Lung Benefits Office (see listing in the back of this booklet)

How can I learn about State disability benefits or compensation?

If you have been told by a physician that you have pneumoconiosis or other lung problems, you may have questions about whether you are eligible for any compensation from the State Government. Workers' Compensation programs are different in every state, so you should contact your State Office of Workers' Compensation (see listing in the back of this booklet).

Call now- if you don't apply in time, you could lose your benefits forever.

How can I get a copy of my X-ray or find out more about my X-ray report?

NIOSH arranges for experts to review your chest X-ray and stores the film for future comparisons. If you need a copy or want more information about your chest X-ray, contact NIOSH (see contact info on page 2 of this booklet).

MSHA District Offices

DISTRICT 1 (ANTHRACITE COAL MINING IN PA)

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
(570) 826-6321

DISTRICT 2 (BITUMINOUS COAL MINING IN PA)

Hunker, Pennsylvania
(724) 925-5150

DISTRICT 3 (MD, OH, & NORTHERN WV)

Morgantown, West Virginia
(304) 225-6800

DISTRICT 4 (SOUTHERN WV)

Mt. Hope, West Virginia
(304) 877-3900

DISTRICT 5 (VA)

Norton, Virginia
(276) 679-0230

DISTRICT 6 (EASTERN KY)

Pikeville, Kentucky
(606) 432-0944

DISTRICT 7 (CENTRAL KY, NC, SC, TN, NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF AL & NORTHERN OF GA)

Barbourville, Kentucky
(606) 546-5123

DISTRICT 8 (IL, IN, IA, IN, MN, NORTHERN MO & WI)

Vincennes, Indiana
(812) 882-7617

DISTRICT 9 (STATES WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, EXCEPT FOR MN, IA & NORTHERN MO)

Denver, Colorado
(303) 231-5458

DISTRICT 10 (WESTERN KY)

Madisonville, Kentucky
(270) 821-4180

DISTRICT 11 (CENTRAL & SOUTHERN GA, FL, MS, PR & VI)

Birmingham, Alabama
(205) 290-7300

DISTRICT 12 (SOUTHERN WV)

Pineville WV
(304) 253-5237

On the MSHA home page, under Quick Links, select District Pages. <http://www.msha.gov>

Black Lung Benefits Offices

<http://www.dol.gov/owcp/dcmwc/blcontac.htm>

NATIONAL OFFICE

U.S. Department of
Labor- OWCP/DCMWC
Washington, DC
202-693-0824 or
800-638-7072

Denver, Colorado
(800) 366-4612

Greensburg, Pennsylvania
(800) 347-3753

Johnstown, Pennsylvania
(800) 347-3754

Mount Sterling, Kentucky
(800) 366-4628

Parkersburg, West Virginia
(800) 347-3751

Pikeville, Kentucky
(800) 366-4599

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
(800) 347-3755

Charleston, West Virginia
(800) 347-3753

Columbus, Ohio
(800) 347-3771

Black Lung Clinics

<http://www.hrsa.gov/gethealthcare/conditions/blacklung>

ALABAMA

Birmingham Health Care, Inc.
Birmingham, Alabama
(205) 212-5653

COLORADO

National Jewish Health
Denver, Colorado
(303) 398-1867

ILLINOIS

J. H. Stroger Hospital Black Lung
Clinics Program
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 864-2901

Shawnee Health Services &
Development Corporation
Carterville, Illinois
(618) 985-8221

KENTUCKY

Mountain Comprehensive Health
Corporation
Whitesburg, Kentucky
(606) 633-4823

Coal Miner Respiratory Clinic
Greenville, Kentucky
(270) 338-8000 x 301

NEW MEXICO

Miners' Colfax Medical Center
Raton, New Mexico
(575) 445-4585

OHIO

Ohio Black Lung Clinics Program
Ohio Department of Health
Columbus, Ohio
(614) 644-8063

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona Regional Health System
Altoona, Pennsylvania
(814) 889-2853

Alveoli, Inc.- Lungs at Work
McMurray, Pennsylvania
(724) 941-1650

Centerville Clinics, Inc.
Fredericktown, Pennsylvania
(724) 632-6801 x2258

TENNESSEE

Community Health of East Tennessee
Jacksboro, Tennessee
(423) 563-1009

VIRGINIA

St. Charles Health Council
Pennington Gap, Virginia
(276) 546-5310 x 3103

WEST VIRGINIA

Black Lung Clinics Program
West Virginia Department of Health
Charleston, West Virginia
(304) 558-7127

WYOMING

NOWCAP
Worland, Wyoming
(307) 672-0046

State Offices of Workers' Compensation

<http://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/regs/compliance/wc.htm>

ALABAMA

Workers' Compensation Division
Montgomery, Alabama
(334) 242-2868
(800) 528-5166

ALASKA

Division Workers' Compensation
Juneau, Alaska
(877) 783-4980

ARIZONA

Industrial Commission
Phoenix, Arizona
(602) 542-4661

ARKANSAS

Workers' Compensation Commission
Little Rock, Arkansas
(501) 682-3930
(800) 622-4472

CALIFORNIA

Division of Workers' Compensation
San Francisco, California
(415) 703-5011
(800) 736-7401

COLORADO

Division of Workers' Compensation
Denver, Colorado
(303) 318-8700
(888) 390-7936

CONNECTICUT

Workers' Compensation Commission
Hartford, Connecticut
(860) 493-1500
(800) 223-9675

DELAWARE

Office of Workers' Compensation
Wilmington, Delaware
(302) 761-8200

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of Workers' Compensation
Washington, District of Columbia
(202) 671-1000

FLORIDA

Division of Workers' Compensation
Tallahassee, Florida
(800) 342-1741

GEORGIA

Board of Workers' Compensation
Atlanta, Georgia
(404) 656-3818
(800) 533-0682

HAWAII

Disability Compensation Division
Honolulu, Hawaii
(808) 586-9161

IDAHO

Industrial Commission
Boise, Idaho
(208) 334-6000
(800) 950-2110

ILLINOIS

Workers' Compensation Commission
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 814-6611
(866) 352-3033

INDIANA

Workers' Compensation Board
Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 232-3808
(800) 824-2667

IOWA

Division of Workers' Compensation
Des Moines, Iowa
(515) 281-5387
(800) 562-4692

KANSAS

Division of Workers' Compensation
Topeka, Kansas
(785) 296-2996
(800) 322-0353

KENTUCKY

Office of Workers' Claims
Frankfort, Kentucky
(502) 564-5550
(800) 554-8601

LOUISIANA

Office of Workers' Compensation
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
(225) 342-7555

MAINE

Workers' Compensation Board
Augusta, Maine
(207) 287-3751
(888) 801-9087

MARYLAND

Workers' Compensation Commission
Baltimore, Maryland
(410) 864-5100
(800) 492-0479

MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Industrial Accidents
Boston, Massachusetts
(617) 727-4900
(800) 323-3249

MICHIGAN

Workers' Compensation Agency
Lansing, Michigan
(888) 396-5041

MINNESOTA

Workers' Compensation Division
St. Paul, Minnesota
(651) 284-5005
(800) 342-5354

MISSISSIPPI

Workers' Compensation Commission
Jackson, Mississippi
(601) 987-4200
(866) 473-6922

MISSOURI

Division of Workers' Compensation
Jefferson City, Missouri
(573) 751-4231
(800) 775-2667

MONTANA

Employment Relations Division
Helena, Montana
(406) 444-6543

NEBRASKA

Workers' Compensation Court
Lincoln, Nebraska
(402) 471-6468
(800) 599-5155

NEVADA

Division of Industrial Relations
Carson City, Nevada
(775) 684-7260

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Workers' Compensation Division
Concord, New Hampshire
(603) 271-3176
(800) 272-4353

NEW JERSEY

Division of Workers' Compensation
Trenton, New Jersey
(609) 292-2515

NEW MEXICO

Workers' Compensation Administration
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(505) 841-6000
(800) 255-7965

NEW YORK

Workers' Compensation Board
Albany, New York
(518) 462-8880
(877) 632-4996

NORTH CAROLINA

Industrial Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina
(919) 807-2501
(800) 688-8349

NORTH DAKOTA

Workforce Safety and Insurance
Bismarck, North Dakota
(701) 328-3800
(800) 777-5033

OHIO

Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Columbus, Ohio
(800) 644-6292

OKLAHOMA

Workers' Compensation Court
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(405) 522-8600
(800) 522-8210

OREGON

Workers' Compensation Division
Salem, Oregon
(503) 947-7810
(800) 452-0288

PENNSYLVANIA

Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
(717) 783-5421
(800) 482-2383

PUERTO RICO

Industrial Commission
San Juan, Puerto Rico
(787) 781-0545

RHODE ISLAND

Division of Workers' Compensation
Cranston, Rhode Island
(401) 462-8100

SOUTH CAROLINA

Workers' Compensation Commission
Columbia, South Carolina
(803) 737-5700

SOUTH DAKOTA

Division of Labor & Management
Pierre, South Dakota
(605) 773-3681

TENNESSEE

Division of Workers' Compensation
Nashville, Tennessee
(615) 741-2395
(800) 332-2667

TEXAS

Division of Workers' Compensation
Austin, Texas
(512) 804-4000
(800) 252-7031

UTAH

Labor Commission
Division of Industrial Accidents
Salt Lake City, Utah
(801) 530-6800
(800) 530-5090

VERMONT

Workers' Compensation Division
Montpelier, Vermont
(802) 828-2286
(800) 734-2286

VIRGINIA

Workers' Compensation Commission
Richmond, Virginia
(877) 664-2566

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Workers' Compensation Administration
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
(340) 776-3700
(800) 809-8477

WASHINGTON

Insurance Services Division
Tumwater, Washington
(360) 902-5800
(800) 547-8367

WEST VIRGINIA

OFFICES OF INSURANCE
COMMISSION
Charleston, West Virginia
(304) 558-3386
(888) 879-9842

WISCONSIN

Workers' Compensation Division
Madison, Wisconsin
(608) 266-1340

WYOMING

Workers' Compensation Division
Cheyenne, Wyoming
(307) 777-5476

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998



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E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov
or visit the NIOSH Web site at
www.cdc.gov/niosh

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