

### **EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN #3**

To: All Parties  
From: Omar Hernández, Senior Judge  
Re: Impartial Examinations - COVID-19 Screening  
Date: April 27, 2020

Please be advised that in order to decrease the risk of propagating the current novel coronavirus as a direct result of impartial examination, some 11A physicians may require certain COVID-19 screening protocols before proceeding forward with an examination. Although the COVID-19 screening process for the medical appointments may differ among the impartial physicians, the screening protocols will more than likely remain in place as long as social distancing is still in force.

Therefore, it is critically important that the claimant/examinee contact the impartial physician's office as soon as possible to confirm that the impartial physician's office is opened and conducting impartial examinations and, if so, determine whether or not the impartial physician has a COVID-19 screening protocol in place.

In order to limit inter-examinee contact, some impartial physicians may ask the examinee to wait in the car until exactly the time of the appointment. Some physicians may not permit examinees to enter the premises early or wait with strangers in the waiting room as they will need time to sanitize and ventilate the waiting and clinic areas between each patient.

If the interview yields reasons to suspect infection by coronavirus, the appointment will have to be rescheduled. If the examination has been canceled and/or rescheduled, please contact the Judge's office and the Impartial Scheduling clerk with the instructions you received from the impartial physician's office.

Lastly, the DIA appreciates the fact in light of this unprecedented global health crisis that some claimants may decide to heed Governor Baker's stay at home order due to their individual risk factors and COVID 19 destructive impact. The claimant may petition the administrative judge that the impartial medical examination be rescheduled.

The DIA will continue to assess this situation and make every effort to keep everyone safe until the dangers posed by this epidemic to all involved are thoroughly past us.