

WCAT is continuing to operate during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information below is intended to help you understand:

- What is happening with our in-person hearings;
- The importance of filing your Notice of Appeal on time and how to ask for an extension of time if you are late filing; and
- How to ask for more time to make written submissions or to provide evidence for your appeal if you need it.

In-Person Hearings

In support of the ongoing efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, WCAT has made the decision to postpone all in-person hearings through May 31, 2020.

WCAT WILL CONTACT YOU REGARDING RESCHEDULING YOUR HEARING.

If you had an in-person hearing scheduled for the time period through May 31, 2020, WCAT will be contacting you (and your representative if you have one) in order to determine how your appeal will proceed.

WCAT's goal during this time is that your appeal will be heard either by teleconference, or by written submissions. Proceeding in this way will enable your appeal decision to be made sooner.

In some cases, your in-person hearing may need to be rescheduled to be held at a later date. Any appeals that are not able to proceed by teleconference or written submissions will be given priority for scheduling when in-person hearings are able to resume.

Notices of Appeal, Submissions, and Evidence

NOTICES OF APPEAL – Notices of Appeal from a Review Division decision **must be filed with WCAT within 30 days** after the decision of the Review Division was made.

You can file a Notice of Appeal through email at appeals@wcat.bc.ca, or fax at (604) 664-7898. The Notice of Appeal form is on our website [here](#).

We accept telephone notifications of appeal for the purposes of meeting the 30 day time period, and you will then normally have a further 21 days to file a written Notice of Appeal. In addition to email and fax, you can also mail your Notice of Appeal form to us, although we are recommending electronic notices at this time.

If your Notice of Appeal is not filed within the 30 day timeline, you can ask WCAT, in writing, for an extension of time. That form is [here](#). WCAT will consider whether there were special circumstances that caused you to not be able to file your Notice of Appeal within the 30 day timeline, and whether an injustice would result if the timeline was not extended.

If your ability to file your Notice of Appeal on time was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, or any other special circumstances, you will want to explain that in your request for an extension of time. WCAT will take all submissions into account in making the decision on whether to extend the time for filing.

There are some decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board that can be appealed directly to WCAT. The deadline for filing a Notice of Appeal in those cases is 90 days, and filing can be completed in the same way as above.

SUBMISSIONS AND EVIDENCE

WCAT is aware that parties may have difficulty meeting timelines set for providing submissions and evidence during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are having difficulty meeting a submission or evidence timeline, you need to [email](#), fax, mail, or call us with your request for more time. Make sure to include your appeal number in your request to us.

In most cases, WCAT will provide an additional 45 days to provide submissions and evidence.

If you need more than the additional 45 days, you will need to provide WCAT with your reasons, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, for making that longer request. The vice chair assigned to your appeal will take those reasons into account when deciding whether a longer period of time to provide evidence or submissions will be allowed.