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

1095 Willowdale Road- M/S LB208

Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

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Toll Free: 1-888-480-4042

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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 you 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

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 800-366-4612

Denver, Colorado  
(800) 366-4612

Parkersburg, West Virginia  
(800) 347-3751

Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
(800) 347-3753

Pikeville, Kentucky  
(800) 366-4599

Charleston, West Virginia  
(800) 347-3753

Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
(800) 347-3754

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania  
(800) 347-3755

Columbus, Ohio  
(800) 347-3771

Mount Sterling, Kentucky  
(800) 366-4628
# Black Lung Clinics

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Clinic Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALABAMA</td>
<td>Birmingham Health Care, Inc.</td>
<td>Birmingham, Alabama</td>
<td>(205) 212-5653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLORADO</td>
<td>National Jewish Health</td>
<td>Denver, Colorado</td>
<td>(303) 398-1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>J. H. Stroger Hospital Black Lung Clinics Program</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
<td>(312) 864-2901</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shawnee Health Services &amp; Development Corporation</td>
<td>Carterville, Illinois</td>
<td>(618) 985-8221</td>
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<td>KENTUCKY</td>
<td>Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation</td>
<td>Whitesburg, Kentucky</td>
<td>(606) 633-4823</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coal Miner Respiratory Clinic</td>
<td>Greenville, Kentucky</td>
<td>(270) 338-8000 x 301</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW MEXICO</td>
<td>Miners’ Colfax Medical Center</td>
<td>Raton, New Mexico</td>
<td>(575) 445-4585</td>
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<td>OHIO</td>
<td>Ohio Black Lung Clinics Program</td>
<td>Columbus, Ohio</td>
<td>(614) 644-8063</td>
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<tr>
<td>PENNSYLVANIA</td>
<td>Altoona Regional Health System</td>
<td>Altoona, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>(814) 889-2853</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alveoli, Inc.- Lungs at Work</td>
<td>McMurray, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>(724) 941-1650</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Centerville Clinics, Inc.</td>
<td>Fredericktown, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>(724) 632-6801 x2258</td>
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<td>TENNESSEE</td>
<td>Community Health of East Tennessee</td>
<td>Jacksboro, Tennessee</td>
<td>(423) 563-1009</td>
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<td>VIRGINIA</td>
<td>St. Charles Health Council</td>
<td>Pennington Gap, Virginia</td>
<td>(276) 546-5310 x 3103</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td>Black Lung Clinics Program</td>
<td>West Virginia Department of Health</td>
<td>(304) 558-7127</td>
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<tr>
<td>WYOMING</td>
<td>NOWCAP</td>
<td>Worland, Wyoming</td>
<td>(307) 672-0046</td>
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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
<table>
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<th>State</th>
<th>Division/Commission</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEVADA</strong></td>
<td>Division of Industrial Relations</td>
<td>Carson City, Nevada</td>
<td>(775) 684-7260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW HAMPHSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Division</td>
<td>Concord, New Hampshire</td>
<td>(603) 271-3176, (800) 272-4353</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEW JERSEY</strong></td>
<td>Division of Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>Trenton, New Jersey</td>
<td>(609) 292-2515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW MEXICO</strong></td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Administration</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
<td>(505) 841-6000, (800) 255-7965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW YORK</strong></td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Board</td>
<td>Albany, New York</td>
<td>(518) 462-8880, (877) 632-4996</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH CAROLINA</strong></td>
<td>Industrial Commission</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina</td>
<td>(919) 807-2501, (800) 688-8349</td>
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<td><strong>NORTH DAKOTA</strong></td>
<td>Workforce Safety and Insurance</td>
<td>Bismarck, North Dakota</td>
<td>(701) 328-3800, (800) 777-5033</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>OHIO</strong></td>
<td>Bureau of Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>Columbus, Ohio</td>
<td>(800) 644-6292</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OKLAHOMA</strong></td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Court</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</td>
<td>(405) 522-8600, (800) 522-8210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OREGON</strong></td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Division</td>
<td>Salem, Oregon</td>
<td>(503) 947-7810, (800) 452-0288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PENNSYLVANIA</strong></td>
<td>Bureau of Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>Harrisburg, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>(717) 783-5421, (800) 482-2383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUERTO RICO</strong></td>
<td>Industrial Commission</td>
<td>San Juan, Puerto Rico</td>
<td>(787) 781-0545</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RHODE ISLAND</strong></td>
<td>Division of Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>Cranston, Rhode Island</td>
<td>(401) 462-8100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH CAROLINA</strong></td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Commission</td>
<td>Columbia, South Carolina</td>
<td>(803) 737-5700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH DAKOTA</strong></td>
<td>Division of Labor &amp; Management</td>
<td>Pierre, South Dakota</td>
<td>(605) 773-3681</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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
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To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at

1-800-CDC-NIOSH (1-800-232-4636)
E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/niosh

For a monthly update on news at NIOSH, subscribe to

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www.health.gov/niosh

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www.cdc.gov/niosh

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services