

Email received August 1, 2021

Good afternoon, I would like to provide my personal experience as a frontline worker.

I worked (hope to return to work) as a security counselor for Department of Human Services. My journey began after testing positive for covid19 toward the end of November 2020 due to a high risk exposure. Most frontline workers will have similar experiences.

I only wish my experience would have been only that but mine is one of almost 8 months of post COVID issues. I am on a medical leave, limited short term disability income, lost my family insurance benefits (coverage for my husband and daughters) because I cannot afford \$2500 out of pocket expenses, have mounting medical expenses because I only have a post COVID diagnosis from my primary provider not a "qualified medical provider". After several tests and specialists, I finally am able to obtain a referral to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester with a Long covid19 clinic this fall. My concern will I be able to go due to increased medical expenses. Mayo Clinic's covid specialist are considered a "qualified medical provider" to determine an official diagnosis of long covid in order to qualify for any additional financial assistance.

This is just my story, many others have and still put themselves and their family's lives on the line. Please acknowledge and compensate all frontline workers. Covid 19 and/or Delta variant can impact several areas for workers.

Thank you for your time,

Heidi Johnson