

Media Advisory

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Update on Home, Auto & Business (Property & Casualty) Insurance Response to COVID-19

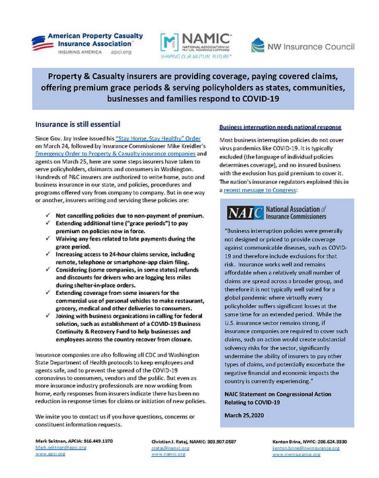
SEATTLE, April 9, 2020 – In accordance with guidance from the US Treasury Department and emergency order issued by Governor Jay Inslee, Property & Casualty Insurance is designated as an essential business. Insurers and agents/brokers have shifted their workforce from offices and claims centers to working from home wherever possible and are closely following CDC and state-recommended social distancing protocols, but are on the job – providing policies, handling & paying covered claims and providing service to policyholders.

Below please find the image of an <u>issue brief</u> from NW Insurance Council and our national insurance trade association partners – the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) and the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) – that provides information about ways our member companies and other P&C insurers are responding to the COVID-19 environment. The original brief with embedded links is also available on the <u>NW Insurance Council</u> website. In short, companies are responding to consumer demand as well as regulatory orders to not cancel policies, to extend premium payment grace periods, to extend coverage for the commercial use of personal vehicles to make deliveries of food, medicine and other necessities, and more. (See below.)

We are aware of the confusion and frustration for closed businesses surrounding business interruption coverage that excludes COVID-19. Included in our issue brief is a statement sent to Congressional leaders in March by the National Association of

Insurance Commissioners (the nation's state insurance regulators, including Washington Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler). Their statement confirms that <u>business</u> interruption policies typically exclude viruses like COVID-19 and are approved, sold and priced accordingly.

- We urge business and personal insurance policyholders to contact their insurance company or agent if they have a claim, a question about their coverage, or if they are having financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is interfering with their ability to pay insurance premiums for their vehicle, home or business.
- We invite media inquiries on any of the issues covered in the attached or any other issues related to home, auto or business insurance. Please contact us if we can provide information or interviews for your news organization.



NW Insurance Council is a nonprofit, insurer-supported organization providing information about home, auto and business insurance to consumers, media and public policymakers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.