

Businesses Filing More COVID Lawsuits and the Stakes are Higher

“The anniversary of COVID-19 shutdown orders brought an upturn in both the number of business-interruption lawsuits against insurers and the amount of damages they are claiming,” writes Jim Sams in *Claims Journal*.

“In the past month:

- A New Jersey hospital system, RWJBarnabas Health, sued Zurich American Insurance Co. seeking \$2.5 billion in damages from a virus that sickened 1,000 patients and killed nine staff members.
- Caesars Entertainment filed suit against 60 carriers seeking \$2 billion in damages caused by restrictions at its Las Vegas resort casino. The company said it paid \$25 million in premiums for \$3.4 billion in coverage through a variety of “all-risk” policies, most of which did not include virus exclusions.
- Denison University, Kenyon College, Ohio Wesleyan University and the College of Wooster filed suit against their 16 insurers seeking \$1.2 billion in coverage. The consortium of private colleges say their insurers turned their backs on them after the virus made their facilities unsafe and uninhabitable.”

“Also, some of the recent filings were made by groups of businesses against a single or multiple insurers. For example, on March 16, six restaurants and a fitness center in New Jersey filed a class-action suit in Bergen County Superior Court against six carriers. On the same day, 26 Ohio dental practices filed suit against Amco Insurance Co. in the U.S. District Court in Toledo.”

Read the article.