

April 23, 2020

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE
PENN-DEL-JERSEY CHAPTER, NECA

FROM: AARON R. KELLEY,
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

RE: PA CONSTRUCTION REOPENING OFFICIAL GUIDANCE

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has released additional guidance on the May 1 Construction Industry reopening. Required health and safety protocols and employee limits for reopening job sites are outlined in this document.

Please note that, while this guidance applies to all Construction businesses in Pennsylvania, local political units may impose more stringent requirements. In this case, businesses must adhere to the more stringent requirements.

The complete statewide guidance is viewable by clicking on the link below:

[OFFICIAL PA CONSTRUCTION REOPENING GUIDANCE](#)

The most important information for NECA Contractors is summarized below:

BUSINESSES SUBJECT TO GUIDANCE

This applies to all businesses in the Pennsylvania Construction Industry, including those in new construction, renovation, and repair; land subdivision, and design-related field activities.

Contractors restarting in-person operations and those with existing exemptions must strictly adhere to all requirements outlined in the Governor's official guidance and all applicable safety orders issued by the Secretary of Health.

Prior to May 1, Contractors should continue to follow existing government orders and guidance and may continue operations only as authorized by existing exemptions.

ALL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

All businesses and employees in the construction industry must:

- Follow all applicable provisions of the [Order of the Secretary of Health providing for business safety measures](#), issued April 15, 2020. This includes requiring the wearing of masks and the establishment of protocols for execution upon discovery that the business has been exposed to a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Follow all applicable provisions of the [Order of the Secretary of Health providing for building safety measures](#), issued April 5, 2020.
- Follow other applicable [Department of Health](#) (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidance](#).
- Require social distancing (6-foot minimum distance between workers) unless the safety of the public or workers require deviation (e.g. drywalling, team lifting).
- Provide hand wash stations at appropriate locations on the site such as building entrances, break areas, food truck areas, offices, trailers, and job site egress areas.
- Implement cleaning or sanitizing protocols at all construction sites and projects. Identify and regularly clean and disinfect areas that are at high risk for transmission (requirements to clean common areas and regularly trafficked spaces periodically).
- Ensure all gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people, maintaining 6-foot social distancing, when required to meet, even when conducted outside.
- Use virtual meetings and disseminate information electronically to the extent feasible.
- Stagger shifts, breaks, work areas and/or stacking of trades where feasible to minimize workers on site.
- Limit tool sharing and sanitize tools if they must be shared.
- Employ jobsite screening based on CDC guidance to determine if employees should work. Prohibit from working any employees with any symptoms of COVID-19. Encourage sick employees to stay home.
- Prohibit unnecessary visitors to any project or work site and limit supplier deliveries.
- Limit access to enclosed spaces to the extent feasible.
- Ensure workers are traveling to and from the job site separately. Wherever possible, employees should not share a vehicle.
- Identify a “Pandemic Safety Officer” for each project or work site, or, if a large-scale construction project, then for each contractor at the site. The primary responsibility of the Pandemic Safety Officer will be to convey, implement, and enforce the social distancing and other requirements of this guidance for the protection of employees, suppliers, and other personnel at the site.

NON-RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

The following guidance also applies to all “Commercial construction” as defined by the Uniform Construction Code (34 Pa. Code § 401.1):

- Enclosed projects or portions of enclosed projects may not permit more than four persons on job sites of 2,000 square feet or less. One additional person is allowed for each additional 500 square feet of enclosed area over 2,000 square feet.
- These numbers are inclusive of employees of both prime and sub contractors. These do not include persons who require only temporary access to the site and are not engaged in the construction activity.
- Enclosed square footage includes all areas under a roof under active construction.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

The following guidance also applies to all public construction projects:

- Local political units and public entities should officially communicate to Contractors whether their specific project will be resumed.
- Contractors should not resume work on public projects until directed to do so by the applicable governmental entity.
- Certain agencies and commissions have already issued directives for critical projects that are continuing. These should continue to be followed unless they conflict with these guidelines. In this case, the new guidelines take precedent.

INSPECTIONS AND APPRAISALS

- Beginning May 1, in-person inspection and appraisals related to construction financing loans and UCC building code plan review and inspection services may be conducted as necessary for all construction projects authorized under this guidance.

Additional guidance not covered in this memo is contained in the [complete document](#). This includes guidance related to residential construction, enforcement, and more.

Please review the Governor’s complete guidance and all other applicable orders prior to reopening your job sites on or after May 1, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact me at akelley@neca-pdj.org. Thank you for your time.

Very Respectfully,

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