



University Facilities – Department of Capital Planning & Project Management

COVID-19 Construction Guidance

Section 1: Can construction projects continue?

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/businesses-and-organizations/can-construction-projects-continue>

As of **May 18**, all construction projects may resume. Construction projects must follow appropriate mitigation requirements, as outlined below.

Construction projects must adopt policies that include, at minimum, the following requirements:

- Prohibit non-essential visitors from entering the worksite;
- Engage in appropriate social distancing measures when picking up or delivering equipment or materials;
- Limit worksite meetings, inductions, and workgroups to groups of fewer than ten individuals;
- Require individuals to maintain six feet or more distance between them wherever possible;
- Stagger work start and stop times where practicable to limit the number of individuals entering and leaving the worksite concurrently;
- Identify congested and "high-risk areas," including but not limited to lunchrooms, breakrooms, portable rest rooms, and elevators, and limit the number of individuals at those sites concurrently where practicable;
- Stagger lunch breaks and work times where practicable to enable operations to safely continue while utilizing the least number of individuals possible at the site;
- Require workers and visitors to wear cloth face coverings, in accordance with CDC recommendations, while on the premises, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age, and require workers to wear gloves while on the premises. Businesses must provide, at their expense, such face coverings and gloves for their employees. If a visitor refuses to wear a cloth face covering for non-medical reasons and if such covering cannot be provided to the individual by the business at the point of entry, then businesses must decline entry to the individual. Nothing in the stated policy should prevent workers or visitors from wearing a surgical-grade mask or other more protective face covering if the individual is already in possession of such equipment, or if the businesses is otherwise required to provide such worker with more protective equipment due to the nature of the work involved. Where an individual declines to wear a face covering on the premises due to a medical condition that inhibits such usage, neither the business nor its staff shall require the individual to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition.
- Require infection control practices, such as regular hand washing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, and proper tissue usage and disposal;
- Limit sharing of tools, equipment, and machinery;
- **At all MSU Job sites**, where running water is not available for contractor use, provide portable washing stations with soap and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizers that have greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol;
- Require frequent sanitization of high-touch areas like restrooms, breakrooms, equipment, and machinery;
- When the worksite is an occupied residence, require workers to sanitize work areas and keep a distance of at least six feet from the occupants;
- Place conspicuous signage at entrances and throughout the worksite detailing the above mandates; **such as this:** <https://accnj.org/wp-content/uploads/EO142-Sign-PDF.pdf>



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- Immediately separate and send home workers who appear to have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 illness upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day; and
- Promptly notify workers **and MSU** of any known exposure to COVID-19 at the worksite, consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and any other applicable laws;
- Clean and disinfect the worksite in accordance with CDC guidelines when a worker at the site has been diagnosed with COVID-19 illness;
- Continue to follow guidelines and directives issued by the New Jersey Department of Health, the CDC and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, as applicable, for maintaining a clean, safe and healthy work environment.

During New Jersey's public health emergency, timeframes governing the Department of Environmental Protection's provision of public notice, review and decisions on permits and other approvals [have been paused or delayed by Executive Order 136](#).

Updated: May 18, 2020

Source: [Executive Order No. 122](#); [Administrative Order No. 2020-11](#); [Executive Order 142](#)

Section 2: Violations

You can report a possible violation of any Executive Order using this online form:
<https://covid19.nj.gov/violation>.

Some examples of Executive Order violations include:

- A non-essential business that is operating
- A business that is not practicing social distancing requirements
- A business that is not allowing remote work of non-essential employees
- A prohibited gathering of people

Compliance with Executive Orders is not voluntary.

Updated: 4/11/20

Source: [Executive Orders](#)

Violations of the emergency orders constitute a disorderly persons offense carrying a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. However, violators can potentially face criminal charges including second, third, and fourth degree indictable offenses.

If you are seeing a lack of compliance with the Governor's emergency orders in your area, please contact your local police department or report here covid19.nj.gov/violation

Section 3: CDC – Coronavirus (COVID-19) website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



Section 4: OSHA ALERT - COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of industry-specific alerts designed to keep workers safe.

When working in the construction industry, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent them from spreading the virus.
- Continue to use other normal control measures, including personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to protect workers from other job hazards associated with construction activities.
- Advise workers to avoid physical contact with others and direct employees/contractors/visitors to increase personal space to at least six feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, all workers should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- Train workers how to properly put on, use/wear, and takeoff protective clothing and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Promote personal hygiene. If workers do not have immediate access to soap and water for handwashing, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved cleaning chemicals from List Nor that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- To the extent tools or equipment must be shared, provide and instruct workers to use alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, workers should consult manufacturer recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Keep in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limit the number of workers in attendance, and use social distancing practices.
- Clean and disinfect portable jobsite toilets regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be filled regularly. Frequently-touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742)

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA4000.pdf>