

June 9, 2020

CITY OF SEATTLE - CONSTRUCTION SITE REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTIONS

On June 5, 2020 King County received approval from the State Department of Health on [an application](#) to move into Phase 2 for Construction, which allows all construction to resume (regardless of when contracts or permits were secured) if in compliance with the Governor Inslee's [Phase 2 job site requirements](#). Previously, the Governor issued an addendum to his Stay Home - Stay Healthy Order (20-25) on April 24 and issued additional guidance to allow construction to restart during Phase 1 on April 29.

These City of Seattle guidelines are necessary to protect the safety of SDCI employees and to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and are subject to change as public health guidance evolves or state requirements change. To the maximum extent possible, the City is deploying technology to do virtual inspections. Remote inspections will not always be possible or advisable.

BEFORE THE CITY COMES OUT TO INSPECT

- Inspections will only be performed on those sites that have established protocols as outlined in [Governor Inslee's Phase 2 Construction Restart COVID-19 Job Site Requirements](#). The City will require the construction lead on each site to certify, via email to the responsible City designee, that they are in compliance with the Governor's job site requirements.
- Contractors or owners should notify the City in advance if anyone on the job site or in the building area where the inspection will occur has experienced symptoms of COVID-19 (fever of 100.4 F, shortness of breath, productive/uncontrolled cough, prolonged sore throat in the last 48 hours) and others as indicated by the Washington State Department of Health. The notification should note the presence of symptoms generally but must maintain personal confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Based on this information, the City will determine if the City can perform the inspection virtually or, if that is not possible, on site as scheduled and will ensure inspectors are prepared to use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Prior to requesting an inspection, the project site contact will review the work, making sure it complies with the permit conditions and the approved plans. The project site contact will confirm that all work requiring inspection is complete and ready for inspection. This will help eliminate any unnecessary visits to the site.

DURING THE CITY INSPECTION

- For each inspection, unless the City inspector is the only person on site at the time of the inspection, the COVID safety supervisor must escort the City inspector. The duties of the escort include: (i) informing the workers on site in advance that an inspection of the work will be made and that they are to provide a safe distance (6 feet minimum per social distancing requirements) from the inspector; (ii) always keeping workers a safe distance from the inspector and the inspection location; (iii) confirming that the work is complete and ready for inspection; and (iv) assisting the inspector, as required, in order to complete the inspection.
- The project site contact will ensure that the City inspector is provided with safe access to the work area requiring inspection. In addition, the sanitation and cleanliness supplies and protocols

must be available to and followed by City inspectors. Under the Governor's requirements for Phase 2, job sites are no longer required to maintain a visitor log.

CITY REFUSAL TO INSPECT

- If an inspection cannot be performed virtually, then City Inspectors have the right to refuse to perform an inspection if: (i) the construction area or access to the area is unsafe, (ii) the construction is clearly not in compliance with the Governor's job site requirements, or (iii) the construction site poses a threat to their health and safety based on the precautionary practices defined by the Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) and the Washington State Department of Health. An unsafe site will result in a missed inspection.

ENFORCEMENT

- Under the authority of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA), L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) will enforce the COVID-19 jobsite safety and health requirements. Complaints may be submitted to the L&I Call Center (1-800-423-7333) or via e-mail to Linda Adame at adag235@lni.wa.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- General questions about how to comply with construction safety practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at: <https://bit.ly/covid-compliance>.
- General Resources: Washington State Department of Health: <http://doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus>; Department of Labor & Industries (L&I): <https://lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-164-000.pdf>.