



1. What are the state and local guidelines for essential activities and industries?

Both Mayor Cantrell and Governor Edwards released “Stay at Home” orders that encourage every New Orleanian to stay or work at home wherever possible. The City and State’s guidance also list “essential activities” that are permitted to continue to operate, so long as they strictly abide by all social distancing and public health directives. Many members of the construction and building trades, as well as members of the public, have questions about the construction industry and whether construction projects are allowed to proceed.

2. Are commercial and residential construction projects allowed to proceed? Are they essential services?

Yes. The construction industry has been deemed to be “essential” under both the City and State “Stay at Home” orders. As such, businesses and projects related to construction, infrastructure, and maintenance may continue to operate, and employees may continue to commute to and from work. This includes all construction sites, both large and small, industrial, commercial, and residential.

3. Do construction sites need to abide by all social distancing and public health directives?

Everyone must still abide by all public health directives and guidance for safely operating in the workplace, even if their work is deemed essential and may continue.

4. What rules pertain to construction sites?

Construction sites must maintain appropriate social distancing measures and all other public health mandates.

- First and foremost, maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between all people at all times, including employees, patrons, and clients.
- Limit gathering opportunities by marking spaces for people to sit or stand that are farther than six feet away from each other.
- Enact telework or remote work policies whenever possible to limit the number of people in one space.
- Ensure handwashing areas are available to employees and patrons and encourage frequent handwashing. Routinely use a disinfectant wipe or spray on high-touch surfaces in workspaces and public areas.



5. What other guidance does the City recommend for construction job sites?

- Create a single point of entry into the jobsite and check-in and check-out all workers.
- Scan worker temperature upon entry, and anyone exhibiting signs of illness should not be allowed on the job site.
- Thorough daily cleaning of work areas, surfaces, and frequently touched items.
- Provide handwashing stations with mandated proper handwashing at intervals throughout the day.
- No interactions with more than family size, and always maintaining at least six (6) feet of space between workers.
- Post educational literature in multiple languages, along with daily training on appropriate conduct.
- Immediately report any cases of known COVID-19.

6. How can members of the public or employees report violations of the social distancing rules?

- Call 3-1-1 to report violations.
- Reports of any violations of the “Stay at Home” order, including these mandates for essential businesses, will be strictly enforced.

7. What are the consequences of not abiding by the rules above?

Businesses and construction sites that do not abide by the “Stay at Home” order will be subject to immediate closure and other enforcement actions.

Additionally, if private construction sites are generally unable or unwilling to abide by the “Stay at Home” order, then the Administration may restrict some construction activity in order to protect public health.

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