



CITY OF SAN DIEGO – 1222 FIRST AVE., SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Date: April 23, 2020**

**Subject: COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Construction Sites**

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To help protect workers and visitors and avoid the spread of COVID-19 at construction job sites, the City of San Diego Development Services Department (DSD) is requiring that all active construction job sites within the City follow the safety protocols outlined in this notice.

The COVID-19 safety protocols are based on recommendations, guidelines and best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Building Industry Association of San Diego, the [March 12, 2020, State of Emergency declaration](#) and [ensuing executive orders](#) from Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and the California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health. For related information, view the CDC's [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), OSHA's [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) or visit [sandiego.gov/dsd-covid19](http://sandiego.gov/dsd-covid19).

In keeping with the foregoing authorities, DSD staff will verify compliance with these construction job site protocols and all other applicable requirements during regularly scheduled inspections, with complaints received by DSD's Inspection Services at 858-492-5070 or requests for investigations submitted to DSD's Code Enforcement at 619-236-5500.

Failure to comply with these guidelines shall be deemed as creating unsafe construction job site conditions and may result in withheld inspections or the construction job site being shut down until all non-compliant issues are corrected.

## Construction Job Site Requirements

1. Construction industry employers shall develop a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control plan, which includes control measures such as social distancing, symptom checking, hygiene, decontamination procedures and training. The exposure control plan and all protocols in this notice must be followed to prevent any onsite worker or job site visitor from contracting COVID-19.
2. Job site workers and visitors shall practice social distancing by maintaining minimum 6-foot separation between all individuals, including during work breaks, gatherings of any size and when picking up or delivering equipment or materials. At the site, trades will be staggered or work schedules altered as necessary to reduce density, minimize the number of trade teams and maintain minimum 6-foot separation social distancing.
3. Prohibit gatherings or meetings of 10 or more people at any time on the job site, including during lunch and other breaks. Jobsite safety meetings should be held in smaller groups while maintaining required social distancing.
4. Eliminate “choke points” and “high-risk areas” where workers are forced to stand together, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, break areas and buses, and control each to maintain required social distancing.
5. Workers are not to share equipment or tools. If tool-sharing is required, each tool must be sanitized before and after each use. When cleaning or disinfecting areas or tools, do not use pressurized air or water spray to avoid generating bio-aerosols.
6. Allow workers to regularly and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers while on job sites at least every 30 minutes.
7. Provide a clean and sanitary restroom with a handwashing station or hand sanitizer for employees and visitors, stocked with all necessary cleaning products like soap and sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should contain a minimum 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol. Ensure jobsite toilets are regularly cleaned and/or sanitized. The recommended ratio of jobsite toilets to employees during the emergency declaration is 1:10 (to match size of groups allowable). If this is not feasible, jobsite toilets should be cleaned at a higher than standard frequency.
8. Cease providing communal drinking water coolers, and ensure workers avoid sharing food or personal items. Contractors should provide bottled water.
9. Discontinue car pool or ride-sharing of workers before, during and after work.

10. Maintain a daily attendance log of all workers and visitors, and managing site deliveries to limit direct contact between workers and minimize the overall headcount on the job site

### **Tenant Improvements**

Interior work performed simultaneously by multiple subcontractors makes a six-foot separation a challenge under traditional schedules during tenant improvements.

1. At the site, trades will be staggered or work schedules altered as necessary to reduce density, minimize the number of trade teams and maintain minimum 6-foot separation social distancing.
2. Limit building access for on site contractor to one door.
3. Where possible, use construction designated pathway to enter jobsite that is not publicly accessible, such as service elevators in lieu of common elevators.

### **Designation of COVID-19 Supervisor**

The owner or contractor shall designate a site-specific COVID-19 supervisor to enforce COVID-19 response practices on each job site and perform regular job site inspections. The designated COVID-19 supervisor shall be present on the construction site during construction activities and can be an onsite worker designated to carry out this role, such as the site foreman or the Project Manager.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate for the activity being performed.

1. All job site workers and visitors shall wear face coverings over their noses and mouths while performing their work. Face coverings include fabric coverings, such as scarves and bandana coverings.
2. All reusable face coverings must be frequently washed, at minimum once a day, for the health and safety of users and others. Single-use covers must be discarded appropriately into trash receptacles.
3. Workers should use supplemental PPE, such as nitrile or latex gloves, when necessary.
4. Workers shall not share PPE with coworkers unless they are cleaned and disinfected before and after use.

### **COVID-19 Job Site Signage**

Post the latest CDC guidelines for required hygienic practices in both English and Spanish, together with any locally required signage, in conspicuous locations visible to all workers, including:

1. Not touching face with unwashed hands or with gloves;
2. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
3. Use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol alcohol;
4. Covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; and
5. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched objects and surfaces – including but not limited to – workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, machines, shared tools, elevator control buttons and doorknobs.

### **COVID-19 Job Site Worker Wellbeing Checks**

1. Ensure that all workers perform a daily health assessment before arriving to the job site. Job site workers must notify their manager/employer and stay home if they:
  - Have a fever, or are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom, or other symptoms of sickness;
  - Are in a high-risk category (as defined by the CDC); or
  - Have been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, are required or advised to stay home, or have immediate or close family members who are sick with COVID-19.
2. Any worker displaying COVID-19 symptoms or other illness must leave the job site immediately, with notification given to the worker's appropriate management team and the COVID-19 Supervisor.
3. Contractors are encouraged to conduct temperature checks for workers coming on to job sites.

### **COVID-19 Information**

Stay informed about COVID-19 by visiting the [City's COVID-19 Information page](#), the [Center for Disease Control website](#) and the [County of San Diego Health and Human Services](#) website.

### **Email Updates**

Visit [sandiego.gov/dsd-email](https://sandiego.gov/dsd-email) and [sign up for the Construction Insider](#) to keep up-to-date with Development Services Department's procedural changes/response to COVID-19 via a weekly email summary.