

## COVID-19 Major Council Cities Report as of April 30, 2020

### Seattle

- Last Friday, April 24, Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced [a plan to allow current construction projects previously underway to be completed](#). Mark Riker, Executive Secretary of the Washington State Building Trades, participated in the media event and did an excellent job. The State Building Trades worked with other representatives from the Construction Roundtable and the Governor's office to create a "sensible plan for limited return to construction with safety measures in place." The Construction Roundtable's formal agreement between construction industry employers, developers and state agencies facilitated by the Governor's office focused on an agreed upon new set of standards and phasing proposal to safely re-start construction.
- This morning, the Governor [clarified the initial guidance memo](#) and issued a guide to [frequently asked questions about construction activities](#). No jobsite may operate until the contractor can meet and maintain all requirements, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Currently operating projects must be in compliance by no later than this Friday, May 1. We anticipate another announcement on May 1 about an extension of other aspects of the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, which is scheduled to end May 4.
- The Seattle Building Trades has continued our focus and advocacy on addressing significant public safety risks at construction sites, and ensuring that distinct and site-specific project Safety Plans are adequate and being implemented. Most project owners have taken seriously the Industry Emergency Requirements and Screening Plan that we are now expecting state and local agencies, as well as other project owners, to abide by, but we have had challenges on a few major projects. This has required daily engagement with project owners and intensive advocacy for workers. We also continue to have serious concerns about inconsistencies with worker safety at school construction sites.
- We are pleased that construction is restarting and that safety has been prioritized, but we are watchful. These continue to be difficult and stressful times for our Unions and their members.

### New York

- No update

### Cook County Chicago

- All I can say is that because we are now testing over 12,000 people per day, the number of cases have gone up, and the number of deaths have also risen. But the number of deaths has gone up at a much lower percentage then the number COVID 19 cases.

### Orange County/L.A.

- Not much change on the job front, most all jobs still open, the City of Los Angeles is approving Corona Virus testing to Asymptomatic Construction Workers.
- Disneyland still shuttered,
- Commercial work ,Hotels , Office Building, Stadium , Museums projects up and running
- Affordable housing , mixed use projects up and running
- Metro transit projects Up and running
- Public works, water districts, port of Los Angeles and Long Beach projects up and running
- Major k-12 and Community colleges modernization bond work up and running
- Some Smaller school districts are shut down based on their operating procedures
- Refineries have scaled back and postponed some turnaround and shutdowns, I think more based on the current Oil issues in the world. But are still doing some work.
- Still working on agreements with Developers for future work and negotiating new public works and private agreements.
- Projects where workers test positive are shut down and cleaned and then reopened according to guidelines.
- The Cities, Counties and other government entities are starting to look at future budgets and we believe although we have been working steady so far we will have some bumpy roads ahead with Government funded projects that are funded with property, sales or other tax instruments, which will eventually bleed into private industry.

### Las Vegas

- No changes here in Nevada.

### Massachusetts

- No update

### Ohio State:

- No change in Ohio has things have leveled out with regards to un-employment numbers. We continue to assist any of the local building trades councils with guidance on safety, hygiene, un-employment claims or anything else their staff runs into.
- Governor DeWine is taking a multi - level approach to slowly re opening the state and are encouraged that this approach will keep the trend going in the right direction.

### Cleveland:

- Our order of bandannas has arrived and they are being distributed on sites. Beginning Monday new orders are going into effect for construction but not much will change as we are already doing what the state is asking for. Work is still very good.

### Milwaukee

- In Milwaukee we are holding our own. Most Locals have about 100- 200 members off. Some due to project delays some by choice. Our safer at Home order has been extended to May 26th by the Governor. The state legislation is suing to change the order. They says the Governor over reached in use of his power. The State Supreme court will hear and rule on it tomorrow. Some non-essential businesses have been allowed to open for curbside pickup etc. Things are slowly loosening up as COVID numbers flatten or drop. We have yet to have any major work site have a large spread of COVID incidents. Many projects are being delayed. The Democratic National Convention has been moved to August 13th. This is also not a guarantee to happen either. We have a PLA in place but the scope of work that will be needed remains fluid as they figure out what this event will look like this year.

### Pennsylvania

- As the construction industry prepares to resume work, the Wolf Administration today issued [guidance](#) for all construction businesses and employees to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- All businesses in the construction industry in the commonwealth are permitted to resume in-person operations starting Friday, May 1 - one week earlier than previously announced.
- Previously, Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine ordered most construction projects to cease unless they were supporting life-sustaining businesses or activities or were granted an exemption to perform or support life-sustaining activities.
- “My administration has taken measured, aggressive steps to protect public health and safety, including strictly limiting the types of businesses and projects that may continue to operate during this unprecedented time,” Wolf said. “Thankfully, these actions are working, and we are flattening the curve. As we start to take steps to reopen the state, we recognize that the construction industry is vital to Pennsylvania’s economy and may operate safely with stringent guidance in place that will protect employees and the public.”
- The guidance, developed from guidance created by the General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania, provides universal protocols for all construction activity, as well as specific additional guidance for residential, commercial and public construction projects.
- All business and employees in the construction industry must adhere to the Secretary of Health’s [order](#) providing for business safety measures, which requires that every person present at a work site wear masks/face coverings unless they are unable for medical or safety reasons and requires that businesses establish protocols upon discovery that the business has been exposed to a person who is a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- All construction projects must maintain proper social distancing and provide hand washing and sanitizing stations for workers, as well as cleaning and sanitizing protocols for high risk transmission areas. Businesses must identify a “pandemic safety officer” for each project or work site, or, for large scale construction projects, for each contractor at the site.
- Residential construction projects may not permit more than four individuals on the job site at any time, not including individuals who require temporary access to the site and are not directly engaged in the construction activity.
- For non-residential or commercial projects, the number of individuals permitted on enclosed portions of a project varies depending on the size of the enclosed site. Commercial construction firms should also strongly consider establishing a written safety plan for each work location containing site specific details for the implementation of this guidance to be shared with all employees and implemented and enforced by the pandemic safety officer.
- Contractors performing work at the direction of the commonwealth, municipalities or school districts should defer to those public entities to determine what projects may continue.
- Local governments may elect to impose more stringent requirements than those contained in the guidance and in such instances, businesses must adhere to those more stringent requirements.
- Local officials have been tasked with ensuring that construction businesses are aware that this guidance exists and notifying businesses that a complaint of noncompliance was received.

## St. Louis

- Nothing much has changed in St. Louis...projects continue to proceed with caution. I really think our joint workers hotline & weekly calls we have with the AGC has been the key! We started it in the very beginning and the calls are at a minimum now, with ALL calls being addressed & satisfied

## Texas

- Work continues and remains the same as in previous reports. No new Members have tested positive to my knowledge. The only thing new to report on is the Governor will start a 3 phase program (GA-18) to Reopen Texas starting May 1, 2020.
- Retailers, Restaurants, Museums, Libraries, Movies. May reopen May1, not to exceed 25% of their total listed occupancies and should follow CDC guidelines. Religious Service should be conducted in accordance with joint guidelines
- Issued and updated by the Attorney General and Governor. People shall avoid visiting bars, gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons. The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks remains allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- For the complete Executive order click on the link [https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-18\\_expanded\\_reopening\\_of\\_services\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-18_expanded_reopening_of_services_COVID-19.pdf)

## San Francisco

- Today, the Mayor and Health Department's new directive which extends "shelter at home" through the end of May has removed all previous bans on construction. We've been very angry with the arbitrary restrictions and consider this a big win.

## Greater Kanas City

- Not much has changed for the KC area;
- Both Missouri and Kansas "shelter in place" will be lifted at Midnight on Monday, May 4th with guidelines and keeping social distancing. Kansas is setting limits on gatherings while phasing in larger capacities each week. Missouri is allowing large gatherings with social distancing.
- The Kansas City Area "shelter in place" has been extended through May 15th.
- All projects are back to work. We have one small project where 10 workers have contracted COVID 19. (Four are IBEW members.) The Non-Union General Contractor is not following our COVID 19 industry guidelines and several of the union sub-contractors are refusing to go to work until the project is shut down and cleaned. We are working with the owner to get the project temporarily closed and follow industry standards.
- We hold weekly calls with the trades to provide updates and for support. Most trades have 90% of their members working and beginning to recruit for spring. The "Care for Construction Heroes" hotline has been going well. We have had one call this week. To date we have 12 calls reporting job site issues. All have been addressed.
- We have had approximately 50 of our members infected with over 150 being quarantined. We have lost one member and 3 members families however all due to health issue and none from contact on a job site.
- **Thank you and the NABTU team for all their help and support.**

## Oregon

- Still good news to report as the construction industry remains essential and work continues pushing forward in the State of Oregon.
- I am happy to report that the state's unemployment insurance response time seems to have greatly improved over the last week. In addition, they also announced earlier this week that Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) will now be available for self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers, clergy, and folks working for religious organizations, and for folks without sufficient work history. That should bring some well needed relief to some of our apprentices and new members that haven't had much work history in the last year. As well as any family members in those listed situations
- Most of our affiliates reported that things seem to be going relatively good with their members considering all the routine changes and the added risk associated to COVID-19.
- We continue to hold weekly Business Manager and Council Leaders C-19 Response virtual meetings. This will be on a recurring basis until the Gov. lifts the EO.
- Regarding our COVID-19 Joint Construction Safety Task Force, we continue to meet three times per week, including 2-4 job site visits. On Thursday we added NECA to our group of participants. Last we issued our first press release to over 200 outlets. See copy of text below.

## **Michigan**

- Although Michigan's numbers are coming down we still registered 1,052 confirmed cases and 160 Deaths yesterday. The Governor is supposed to make an announcement regarding opening Construction back up this week. Our Refuel Outage at Fermi Power Plant was going pretty smooth until yesterday with a number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported. We continue to work with FCA, FORD and GM regarding a restart of their Projects.

## **Indiana**

- No update

## **Minnesota**

- In Minnesota, construction continues as a critical industry. While the Stay at Home Order is currently scheduled to expire on May 4, the Governor is using a "dial-up/dial-down" method to opening the Minnesota economy, so we anticipate modifications to the Order rather than it being lifted completely. We are beginning to hear concerns from the design community that significantly fewer projects are in the pre-planning phases which could dramatically impact our construction workforce in approximately six months. Currently, Minnesota construction unemployment is relatively low, and members are working safely throughout the State.

## **Kentucky**

- In Kentucky, construction unemployment remains about 20% statewide. Customers and contractors seem to be following the necessary CDC guidelines in order to keep our members on the job and safe.
- It is reported that KY has plateaued in COVID cases. The Governor has implemented a slow and steady three phase re-opening as the numbers of cases dictate and subside. Beginning on May 11, everybody that is working for or visiting an essential businesses should be wearing a face mask though no one will be cited. The Governor will approve business re-openings for those that comply with these safeguards for employees and customers.
- Our Primary Elections were moved to June 23rd and absentee ballots will be available to all registered voters with no reason required, a first for our state.

## **New Jersey**

- No update

## **North Dakota**

- We are holding steady in commercial sectors with some trades having difficulty filling calls. The industrial sector is continuing to slide with energy commodity prices falling. Unemployment applications have been decreasing but expecting an uptick in the coming weeks due to industrial sector constraints. We are working with signatory contractors to follow National Department recommendations for exposure control plans for construction sites. Governor's shut down order will expire Thursday April 30 for high-contact businesses such as restaurants, bars, hair salons, fitness centers, etc.