



March 26, 2020

Re: State Stay at Home, Stay Safe Order Clarification

AIA Washington Council Members-

With the Stay Home, Stay Safe order in place, AIA Washington Council continues to seek clarification and direction from Olympia to share with our members.

#### **Clarification on Construction Activities During Stay Home, Stay Safe**

Yesterday Governor Inslee released a memo ([here](#)) specifically addressing the construction industry, clarifying what parts of the industry are considered “essential” per the order. In the memo he states that, “in general, commercial and residential construction is not authorized under the Proclamation because construction is not considered to be an essential activity.”

The memo goes on to state that only construction related to essential activities, as described in the order, will be considered essential. According to the [Seattle Times](#) this morning, projects considered essential are construction related to essential activities like health care, transportation, energy, defense and critical manufacturing; construction “to further a public purpose related to a public entity,” including publicly financed low-income housing; and emergency repairs.

Because architects are critical members of the team to construct these projects, AIAWA will be reaching out to the governor’s office today to request that architects be included as essential in his list of workers associated with allowed projects. We also continue to request clarity around the construction of schools, which is not included currently. Until we receive a response please remember that if your work is not listed as essential, you must work from home.

#### **Emergency Response**

Architects are uniquely trained as problem solvers and many of you have expertise in medical design, planning and efficiencies. AIAWA sent a letter to the Department of Emergency Management extending our desire to put these skills into action to help cope with the pandemic. If you are aware of state or local needs where architects could use our skills to assist, please let me know. Should we get a request for this expertise, and you wish to be included on a taskforce to help, please let me know via email at [tsueirro@aiawa.org](mailto:tsueirro@aiawa.org).

#### **Additional Items**

- If your work is considered essential, you do not need to carry a license or paperwork proving that it is. The rumors regarding this requirement are false.
- If you are experiencing difficulties with local governments refusing to process new permit applications online, or any other issues related to moving projects forward, please let us know so we can track these issues. If it would be helpful, AIAWA may be able to issue a letter to the local jurisdiction.
- AIA National is offering a free webinar titled Is Your Firm Prepared? Business Continuity Planning for Architects. You can register ([here](#)).

If you need more information or resources, visit our webpage ([here](#)) for links to federal, state and local resources. Your health and safety are most important so please follow the guidelines in the order and let us know how we can help during this time.

Regards,  
Tammie Y. Sueirro  
Executive Director

#### **The American Institute of Architects**

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