



March 31, 2020

RE: School Construction and the Stay Home Stay Healthy Proclamation

AIA Washington Council Members,

This afternoon we received the following from Governor Inslee's office in response to our request to know whether school construction was considered essential under his Stay Home Stay Healthy proclamation:

"Public Works Construction

Thank you for your inquiry. Yes, under Proclamation 20-25 and Governor Inslee's follow-up memo issued on March 25, 2020, construction on public works projects is essential. This does not, however, provide broad permission to developers and contractors. The only other commercial construction allowed is construction related to essential activities or construction needed to prevent spoliation, avoid damage or unsafe conditions, or address emergency repairs.

Please know the Governor takes this decision very seriously. Nonetheless, he believes the best way to control the spread of COVID-19 is to temporarily limit interaction as much as possible. Please also know that, even if your construction activity does not meet the criteria above, you may continue to perform minimum basic operations to a) maintain the value of your inventory, b) preserve the condition of your premises and equipment, c) ensure security, d) process payroll and employee benefits, e) facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences, and f) conduct related functions. Any minimum basic operation must still adhere to the guidelines around social distancing and sanitation referenced in Proclamation 20-25 or any subsequent proclamation related to essential businesses.

However, an exception to the order allows for construction in the following limited circumstances: a) Construction related to essential activities as described in the order; b) To further a public purpose related to a public entity or governmental function or facility, including but not limited to publicly financed low-income housing; or c) To prevent spoliation and avoid damage or unsafe conditions, and address emergency repairs at both non-essential businesses and residential structures. To that end, it is permissible for workers who are building, construction superintendents, tradesmen, or tradeswomen, or other trades including, but not limited to, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, laborers, sheet metal, iron workers, masonry, pipe trades, fabricators, heavy equipment and crane operators, finishers, exterminators, pesticide applicators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC technicians, painting, moving and

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relocation services, forestry and arborists, and other service providers to provide services consistent with this guidance. All construction activity must meet social distancing and appropriate health and worker protection measures before proceeding.

Disclaimer: *This response is intended only to provide guidance on Proclamation 20-25 and does not grant any other license, certification, or privilege.*

Proclamation 20-25 does not require anyone to carry documentation or certification proving that they are in compliance. Similarly, no state or local agency will be providing special certification that an activity is essential.”

AIA Washington Council urges you to continue to follow physical distancing and other health and safety measures to keep you and your employees healthy. Please let us know if there is any way we can be of assistance to you during this crisis.

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Regards,
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Executive Director