



March 24, 2020

Re: State Stay at Home and Stay Safe Order

AIA Washington Council Members-

Over the past several weeks we have seen the response to the COVID-19 virus grow increasingly more restrictive in an effort to slow down the spread. Last night Governor Inslee announced a Stay at Home and Stay Safe order for the state of Washington ([here](#)) effective from 5:30 pm on March 25 through midnight on April 6.

This order outlines the requirements for all people to remain in their homes “except to conduct or participate in essential activities and/or employment in providing essential business services.” The order includes a list of sectors and business functions the governor has designated as “essential,” allowing them to remain open ([here](#)).

Construction and the maintenance of construction sites are listed at the top of page 11:

- *Construction workers who support the construction, operation, inspection, and maintenance of construction sites and construction projects (including housing construction) for all essential facilities, services and projects included in this document, and for residential construction related to emergency repairs and projects that ensure structural integrity.*

It is our interpretation that architects are an integral support component on construction sites and projects, specifically architects who are involved in projects listed within the document as essential, including housing. Unfortunately, the document is vague on this designation. AIAWA will continue to work with our partners throughout the state and with our connections in Olympia to get clarity on this directive. See our letter to Governor Inslee ([here](#)). Until further clarification is given, if your work is not listed as essential you are required to work remotely.

If, given this information, you determine that your work is essential, we urge you to:

- Utilize all available tools for you and necessary staff to work remotely.
- If working around others, adhere to all social distancing and protection guidelines under the governor’s order and from the CDC. You must have health protection measures in place before employees can engage in essential work.

If you need more information or resources, visit our webpage ([here](#)) for links to federal, state and local resources. Please stay safe and let us know how we can help during this time.

Regards,

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