



Guidelines for Construction Projects that Remain Operational

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-CoV-2 virus. The current mutation is a new strain of the SARS virus and no individual has any immunity prior to an exposure. The CDC has reported that testing has begun on a vaccine but for now, everyone should prepare and plan for possible impacts resulting from COVID-19. It has spread from China to many other countries around the world, including the United States.

Construction in many areas has been designated an essential service, therefore employers and employees must review and revise safety protocols and implement new and updated exposure plans to protect workers that are deemed essential. Essential designations relate to continuing maintain U.S. infrastructure, building services for hospitals, government and other critical operations. It is important to always follow the guidelines release by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), as they are updated frequently by the leading experts to effectively address the current situation.

Guidelines for Working on Project that Remain Operational During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

1. It is important for workers who are feeling ill or showing any signs of illness or respiratory distress to refrain from coming to work.
2. If any worker reports to work and exhibits any signs and symptoms of fever, respiratory distress, coughing or sneezing that is uncontrol by allergy medication should be asked to return home and seek medical attention if warranted or develops shortness of breath.
3. While on the jobsite, always practice social distancing by maintaining a minimum 6-foot distance from others. Avoid gatherings or operations that require two or more people in close proximity.
4. Provide employees with all necessary PPE such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as required for the activity and any exposure.
5. It has been recommended to designate a site supervisor dedicated to monitoring COVID-19 issues and provide additional information to workers as needed.
6. Determine areas where workers may be at risk of close proximity like stairwells, break rooms, material trailers and develop plans to minimize interactions between employees.
7. Rotating trades in jobsite areas and providing additional shift work opportunities may also work to keep workers at the required 6' social distancing rule currently in place.
8. A good practice is to not share tools and devices such as cellphones, smart tablets, desks, offices, work tools and equipment. If tools or equipment must be shared, ensure all cleaning protocols have been followed for proper disinfection
9. Provide proper signage from CDC, WHO, OSHA related to proper hygiene and proper hand washing techniques. Washing with warm water and soap for 20 seconds or using an alcohol based, evaporating disinfecting lotion will deter the spread of viruses to others. Always cover your cough, preferable with tissue that can be disposed of properly in trash receptacles.
10. Provide hand wash stations and/or hand sanitizing lotion at multiple locations around the jobsite and workplace to encourage proper hygiene measures.
11. Have employees inform their supervisor if they have been around a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if a family member at home has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is showing signs or symptoms. Employers may ask worker to self-quarantine at home to protect safety of others on the jobsite.
12. Maintain a daily attendance log of all workers and limit suppliers, vendors and visitors to a designated area away from other employees working on the job. No un-authorized visitors will be allowed on the project.

By following these recommendations and the federal guidelines and information provided for everyone to remain safe and healthy, work may be able to continue while ensuring that additional COVID-19 protocols and precautions that specifically address worker safety and health, while at the same time providing relative to enabling employers with essential information to address the COVID-19 Pandemic as it impacts the electrical construction industry.



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