



NEWS RELEASE

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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State Provides Best Practice Guidelines to Protect Workers as Construction Industry Reopens

*Employers are required to take necessary precautions to reduce
the spread of COVID-19*

LANSING, MICH. As the construction industry reopens tomorrow, May 7, the Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity highlighted requirements for employers and provided further [guidance on best practices](#) to protect Michigan workers and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

“We must take aggressive action to reduce COVID-19 exposure in order to prevent a second spike in cases,” Governor Gretchen Whitmer said. “The only way we can safely reopen businesses, including our job providers in the construction industry, is to be smart about protecting our workforce. We’re ensuring employers understand how to protect their employees and customers, and we continue to save lives.”

The governor’s [Executive Order 2020-70](#), allows the May 7 resumption of some types of work that present a very low risk of infection, including construction. LEO, in collaboration with leaders and experts from industry, and state and local public health, has developed best practice guidelines that help construction industry employers understand the requirements under the order. The best practice guidelines can be found on [LEO’s website](#).

Under the Executive Order, construction industry employers are required to:

- Designate a site supervisor to enforce COVID-19 control strategies.
- Conduct daily health screenings for workers.
- Create dedicated entry points, if possible, or issue stickers or other indicators to assure that all workers are screened every day.
- Identify choke points and high-risk areas (like hallways, hoists and elevators, break areas, water stations, and buses) and controlling them to enable social distancing.
- Ensure sufficient hand-washing or hand-sanitizing stations at the worksite.

“As the construction industry reopens and we get Michiganders back to work, our first priority is to protect our workers and save lives,” Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Director Jeff Donofrio said. “These guidelines in conjunction with the governor’s order, will help reduce the

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spread of COVID-19 and allow Michigan construction workers to return home from the job healthy and safe.”

The governor’s order also requires construction industry employers to:

- Develop a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, consistent with recommendations in OSHA’s [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#).
- Keep workers and patrons who are on premises at least six feet from one another to the maximum extent possible.
- Increase standards of facility cleaning to limit worker and patron exposure to COVID-19.
- Provide personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and face masks as appropriate for the activity being performed.

On a scale from low to very high, risk determination is the leading factor to the level of precaution an employer should take to protect their employees and may vary within the same facility. These guidelines will help employers provide training on potential risks to their employees, which is a key component to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The construction industry [best practice guidelines](#) posted by LEO include in-depth descriptions of eight employer responsibilities to keep workers safe, including:

- Training and administrative controls
- Access control
- Policies governing social distancing
- Policies governing disinfection / sanitation
- Personal hygiene
- Policies governing personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Positive case protocols
- Facility closure scenarios

Employees and employers having questions or complaints regarding workplace safety or health may contact the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration at 800-866-4674 and mioshainfo@michigan.gov.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at michigan.gov/coronavirus and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus).

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