



Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation
Division of Building, Design & Fire Professionals

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Construction Industry Professionals,

For over a month now, Rhode Islanders have been asked to make adjustments to how we live and work in an attempt to flatten the curve on Covid-19. Slowing the spread of Coronavirus is nearly as important as stopping it. Every decision that has been made, though oftentimes extremely difficult on both businesses and individuals, is made to help accomplish exactly this.

On Saturday, March 28th, Governor Raimondo's Executive Order 20-13, prohibited all gatherings of more than 5 people and prohibited all non-critical retail businesses from conducting in-person operations. Since then, state beaches and parks have closed, as well.

Construction jobsites remain open, as do construction equipment and supply stores, hardware stores and general power equipment stores that supply you with the essentials to continue the important work you do. Likewise, state and local Building Departments continue their permitting and inspection responsibilities, albeit in "untraditional" ways, to help move your projects forward.

To continue keeping yourself, your employees and your coworkers safe, you are required to:

- maintain social distancing protocols, even on your jobsites. Make sure everyone can maintain a 6 ft. distance from any other person, at all times. Reduce the number of people on site to successfully accomplish this, if you must.
- comply with all safety and health guidelines, issued by the R.I. Department of Health and the CDC. These include, but are not limited to, frequent hand washing, wiping down surfaces and tools with disinfectants, wearing protective gloves, etc.
- stay home if you have been exposed to anyone with Covid-19 and/or are experiencing flu-like symptoms and call your healthcare provider.
- self-quarantine, when not at work, if your work takes you across state lines, per Executive Order 20-13.

Furthermore, just like all Rhode Islanders, you are encouraged to wear cloth face covers when in public and at work. A cloth face cover is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or wrapped around your lower face. A cloth face cover could be sewn by hand or improvised from household items such as scarves or T-shirts. The primary role of a cloth face cover is to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes.

Only with the highest levels of compliance with the above will we be able to flatten the curve and, eventually, get back to "normal", sooner rather than later.

Stay healthy and safe!