Beginning May 1, 2020, all construction-industry businesses in the Commonwealth, including those in new construction, renovation, and repair, as well as land subdivision and design-related field activities, are permitted to resume in-person operations in accordance with the amendments to the Business Closure Orders outlined by the Governor and the Secretary of Health in the “Guidance for Business in the Construction Industry…”, so long as their activities strictly adhere to those protocols. Residential and commercial job site capacities include employees of both prime and sub-contractors, but do not include delivery persons, code inspectors, or similar persons who require temporary access to the site and are not directly engaged in the construction activity. A summary checklist of the requirements of the guidance appear on the reverse of this document. The provisions require the establishment of protocols to be followed in the event an employee has been exposed to a person who is a likely carrier or has been confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19.

FAQs

A construction site isn’t following the safety requirements to prevent COVID-19.
How do I file a complaint?
All complaints against a business not following required COVID-19 protection measures, including a specific construction site, should be made using the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) Complaint Form.

If a residential construction project is over 2,000 square feet, can the same non-residential guidelines apply?
No. Residential projects must follow the residential guidelines, which state no more than four persons on the job site at the same time.

Is the square feet rule aggregate, per floor, or for any specific trade of the job?
The rules for enclosed square footage are in aggregate and include all areas under one roof that are under active construction at the time. The rules cover all trades.

Will townhome construction sites allow four workers per unit?
For townhouses and duplexes under one roof, the four-worker limitation is in place until the dividing fire separation wall is erected separating each residential unit. Once the wall is erect, then each residential unit is limited to four workers and must adhere to the restrictions enumerated in the construction guidance.

May we have more than four workers on a job site if they are doing outdoor work on a property, such as utility installation, landscape walls, and driveway?
Residential construction projects may not permit more than four persons on the job site at any time inclusive of employees of both prime and subcontractors, but not inclusive of delivery persons, code inspectors, or similar persons who require temporary access to the site and are not directly engaged in the construction activity.
Commonwealth Guidance Requirements

- Residential project – No more than 4 persons.

- Commercial project – No more than 4 persons up to 2000 sq. ft. One additional person per every 500 additional sq. ft.

- Every person present at a work site must wear masks/face coverings. Use caution when using ladders, scaffolding, and all high platform equipment.

- Social distancing requirements: (6-feet minimum distance between workers) unless the safety of the public or workers require deviation (e.g. drywalling, team lifting).

- Provide hand wash stations at appropriate locations on the site such as building entrances, break areas, food truck areas, offices, trailers, and job site egress areas.

- Cleaning or sanitizing protocols at all construction sites and projects must be present. Identify and regularly clean and disinfect areas that present a high risk for transmission (requirements to clean common areas and regularly trafficked spaces periodically).

- All gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people, maintaining 6-foot social distancing when required to meet; outside areas are included in this requirement.

- Use virtual meetings and disseminate information electronically to the extent feasible.

- Stagger shifts, breaks, work areas and/or stacking of trades where feasible to minimize the number of workers on site.

- Limit tool sharing and sanitize tools if they must be shared.

- Unnecessary visitors to any project or work site are prohibited. Limit supplier deliveries.

- Limit access to enclosed spaces to the extent feasible.

- Ensure workers are traveling to and from the job site separately. Whenever possible employees should not share a vehicle.

- Identify a “Pandemic Safety Officer” for each project or work site. On a large-scale construction project, one should be identified for each contractor at the site. The primary responsibility of the Pandemic Safety Officer will be to convey, implement, and enforce social distancing and other requirements of this guidance for the protection of employees, suppliers, and other personnel at the site.

It is important to follow all COVID-19 protocol recommendations provided by the Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Employ job site screening based on CDC guidance to determine if employees are permitted to work on site. Prohibit anyone that displays symptoms of COVID-19 from entering or remaining on site and encourage sick employees to stay home. For the most up-to-date information please refer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s website for Responding to COVID-19: https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/