



**STAY HOME – WORK SAFE  
TRAVIS COUNTY ORDER NO. 2020-5 related to  
EXECUTIVE ORDER GA-14**

## **Supplemental Guidance for the Construction Industry**

This document provides additional guidance for persons and business associated with the building and construction industries and trades on the meaning and application of Order 2020-5 issued by the County Judge for the County of Travis on March 24, 2020, related to the Declaration regarding COVID-19 (the “Order”) and subsequent Executive Order issued by Governor Abbott on March 31, 2020, No. GA-14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster (“Governor’s Order”). This Guidance supplements the Guidance published by Travis County on March 30, 2020.

1. **Permissible Construction Work for Essential Services and Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.** All construction work authorized in the Governor’s Order is permissible. In light of the Governor’s Order, Travis County will not be enforcing a prohibition against residential or commercial construction. The Governor’s Order authorizes construction for Essential Services and Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0 (“CISA Guidance”). The list of essential services will be maintained by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and can be found at [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices). The TDEM website further provides a procedure for determining whether a business qualifies as an essential service.
2. **Employer Requirements for Construction Work.** For construction work, all employers involved in the construction activity must follow the requirements set forth in Exhibits B of the Order, and attached to these Guidelines. Specifically, in providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the CDC and Austin/Travis County Health Authority by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and implementing social distancing,
  - a. **Social Distancing Requirements.** As outlined in the Guidelines from the CDC and Austin/Travis County Health Authority, Social Distancing Requirements include maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other individuals, washing

hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not into hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

- b.** In addition to the distancing guidelines and healthy work practice requirements in Exhibit B of the County Order, for all construction sites within Travis County with more than 10 active workers at any time, the person in charge of the overall site (“Site Manager”) shall:
  - 1. Post at the site, in languages understood by all persons working there, a notice showing the sizes and types of shift crews working there, and directions on how the Site Manager is limiting crew sizes and rotating shifts;
  - 2. Conduct a jobsite pre-screening of the general health of each worker, understood by the worker, every day before the commencement of work;
  - 3. Ensure that the site has at least one handwashing station with soap or hand sanitizer for each 15 workers at the site;
  - 4. Prohibit the use of community water coolers;
  - 5. Ensure that shared tools are disinfected between users, and that common areas (lunch and break areas, toolbox talk areas, large equipment, etc.) and collective touch points (doorknobs, counters, keyboards, etc.) are cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day; and
  - 6. Post in a conspicuous place or places on a site where notices to employees are customarily posted, once such signage is made by available by the County, a sign in English and Spanish providing the social distancing requirements and recommendations for employees in Exhibit B of the Order, and the provisions in Section 2 of this Supplemental Guidance, and information for workers to submit complaints of any violations.
- c.** If a worker at a construction site is confirmed to have contracted the COVID-19 virus, the Site Manager shall immediately send the worker home, notify Austin/Travis County Health Authority, and follow all directions from Austin/Travis County Health Authority concerning that worker.
- d.** The Site Manager shall ensure that every worker who enters a jobsite has signed in and shall keep a list of and contact information for every worker that enters the jobsite every day for the purpose of identifying and notifying workers if they have shared a jobsite with someone who has been confirmed to have the COVID-19 virus.

**e.** All Construction Industry employers are encouraged to observe the following employment practices for the benefit of the overall economy of the County:

- i. Take no adverse action against a worker who declines to work at a construction site if the worker believes in good faith that the site presents an imminent health risk to the health of the worker or others due to coronavirus.
- ii. Take no adverse action against a worker who has been quarantined, or advised to self-quarantine, due to possible exposure to coronavirus.
- iii. Do not contest a claim for unemployment benefits filed by a worker temporarily furloughed as the result of the closure of a construction site due to coronavirus.

**3.** The County Order does not apply to State or Federal projects, employees, or facilities.