**Recommendations to Return All Construction to Essential**

The following recommendations are to help facilitate and restart existing construction projects beginning no later than May 16, 2020 and running through July 4, 2020 that were shut down due to being deemed non-essential. The projects will have onsite COVID-19 Safety Plans that allow work to be performed meeting social distancing requirements and safety practices to keep employees, worksites and the public safe.

There are two approaches that will help ensure the greatest level of prevention and protection for the employees, job sites and the general public. Step One will be general procedures and requirements to implement safety plans and best practices. Step Two will be controlling the density of the workforce on sites re-starting and resuming.

**STEP ONE: General Procedures and Requirements:**

1. **At all times and on all sites, until the Executive Order is repealed, all workers must have, at a minimum, cloth facial covering when onsite and working.**
2. **Prior to recommencing work all contractors are required to develop and post at each job site a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation, and recovery plan (sample COVID-19 Plan in Addendum A).**

The plan should include (sample explanations in Addendum B):

* 1. PPE utilization
  2. On-site social distancing
  3. Hygiene and sanitation
  4. Symptom monitoring
  5. Incident reporting
  6. Site decontamination procedures
  7. Exposure response procedures
  8. Post-exposure incident project wide recovery plan

A copy of the plan must be available on each job site during any construction activities and available for inspection by state and local authorities.

1. **Safety/toolbox talks/orientation must be conducted on all job sites on the first day of returning to work, and weekly thereafter, to explain the protective measures in place for all workers. Social distancing must be maintained at all gatherings.**
2. **An employer site-specific COVID-19 Leader shall be designated at every job site to monitor the health of the contractor employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan. A designated COVID-19 Leader must be present at all times during construction activities.**
3. **Adopt and post any new requirements (that are practical and due not create an undue hardship) created by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or the New York State Department of Health (DOH) related to COVID-19 best practices and/or plans to mitigate potential recurrence or spread of the virus**

**STEP TWO: Recommendations to Manage Project Density and a Full return to Project Capacity**

In order to have a smooth transition back to full capacity job sites, we recommend that New York State adopt the following scaled density to restart projects that have been shut down due to being deemed non-essential:

1. Outdoor operations which presumably have less risk of spread of COVID-19 will not be subject to density requirements but will be obligated to follow the current recommendation of 6 ft. separation. These operations are usually controlled by one or two sub-contractors with a limited number of workers where appropriate social distancing can be more readily maintained.

In instances where work cannot be performed safely by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering, mask, gloves and/or safety glasses/shields as required for their task until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart.

Examples of exterior work include, but are not limited to, the following areas and other work required to meet the task:

* Concrete forming and concrete placement
* Steel erection
* Exterior framing
* Open excavation
* Support of excavation
* Foundation
* Roofing
* Façade erection/glazing/rehabilitation/installation
* Site work/utilities
* Paving/driveways/seal coating/landscaping
* Exterior supported or suspended scaffold installation, use or dismantling
* Exterior hoist erection, use or dismantling
* Crane erection, use or dismantling

1. Interior operations, which tend to have a greater density of workers, will require a phased-in approach to ensure the greatest opportunity to reduce the risk of exposure:
   * For locations outside the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Metro North service area:
     1. Weeks 1-2: There will not be more than one person for every 200 sq. feet of total project square footage based on work in place
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safety by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or approved PPE mask, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart
     2. Week 3: There will not be more than one person for every 100 sq. feet of total project square footage based on work in place
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safety by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or approved PPE mask, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart
     3. Week 4: Projects will maintain the commitment to keep workers at the 6 ft. recommended social distance
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safely by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or mask, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart
   * For locations inside the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Metro North service area:
     1. Week 1-2: There will not be more than one person for every 300 sq. feet of total project square footage based on work in place
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safely by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or approved PPE mask, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart
     2. Week 3-4: There will not be more than one person for every 200 sq. feet of total project square footage based on work in place
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safely by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or approved PPE masks, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart
     3. Week 5: There will not be more than one person for every 100 sq. feet of total project square footage based on work in place
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safely by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or approved PPE masks, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart
     4. Week 6: Projects will maintain the commitment to keep workers at the 6 ft. recommended social distance
        1. In instances where work cannot be performed safely by adhering to the 6 ft. recommendation, all workers will be required to have cloth facial covering and/or approved PPE masks, gloves and safety glasses/shields until they can return to being more than 6 ft. apart