



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Mark Lavin

MEMO

TO: Wayne Hammon, Idaho AGC
FROM: Mark Lavin, PDS Director, Jason Blais, Building Official
DATE: 3/26/2020
RE: Governor's Order to Self-Isolate – Exemptions, Safety Precautions

COVID-19

Governor's Order to Self-Isolate - Exemptions

The Governor's Order to Self-Isolate issued on March 25, 2020, specifically includes exemptions for public works construction, commercial construction, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), water, sewer, gas, electrical and telecommunication systems, among others, as "Essential Infrastructure".

The Order also includes an extensive list of "Essential Businesses" such as, healthcare operations and essential infrastructure, grocery stores, food businesses, shelters, social services, media companies, gas stations, auto supply or service, financial institutions, hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, landscapers, educational institutions, among others.

"Essential Government Functions" includes "others working for or to support Essential Businesses". "Essential Government Functions" means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of local, state, federal, or tribal government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with the **Social Distancing Requirements** as defined by Section 8.j., to the extent possible.

Thus, per the Order at this time, **City functions to review, process and issue permits, and to conduct inspections therefor, are considered "essential" and are exempt from the Order.**

Safety Precautions

During these times it is imperative our team members adhere to safety precautions. It is highly recommended that those who can work from home, do work from home. If you must work at City Hall, practice social distancing requirements and good hygiene.

There are many precautions to consider when carrying out inspections:

1. Ask if anyone in the area or building is sick, has been sick or has been asked to be quarantined. If yes, do not conduct the inspection and ask them to reschedule for a later date.
2. Ask contractors what provisions they have implemented on the job site for safety considering the COVID-19 situation.
3. Have awareness of the symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, difficulty breathing). If you observe any of these, do not conduct the inspection and ask them to reschedule for a later date.
4. Maintain at least 6' of social distancing from persons at all times. If this cannot be achieved, do not conduct the inspection and ask them to reschedule for a later date.
5. Carry only items, tools or equipment needed to conduct the inspection. Avoid placing items, tools or equipment on surfaces unless properly disinfected.
6. Wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes often.
7. Use provided PPE gear as necessary, gloves, shoe covers, biohazard bags, etc., especially in occupied living spaces. Lead by example with use of this gear.
8. Have higher caution in interior remodels, repairs or additions to existing occupied homes. If any concerns, do not conduct the inspection and ask them to reschedule for a later date. Consult supervisor if needed.
9. Where possible, avoid high risk areas with patients or occupants such as hospitals, medical offices, assisted living facilities, or daycares. Determine if the inspection can be delayed or rescheduled. Consult supervisor if needed.
10. In high risk areas, consider the possibility of inspection approvals by video, photos, or cell phone apps such as Zoom, Facetime, Teams, etc.
11. Where inspections need to be rescheduled, enter comments of the reasons for the need to reschedule in the inspection activity within our permit system.
12. If you feel sick, stay home. Communicate to supervisor.

