



For Immediate Release

March 25, 2020

Minnesota Construction Industry Statement Regarding MN Emergency Executive Order 20-20

The Minnesota construction industry is committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. Our respective organizations represent labor and management in the Minnesota construction industry. We support Emergency Executive Order 20-20 issued today by Governor Walz to protect the health of Minnesotans in light of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

Minnesota’s construction employers and their skilled workforce build, maintain, operate and repair our critical infrastructure, from energy, water, roads, bridges and transit to hospitals, schools, housing, and centers of commerce. The Executive Order Directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home recognizes the importance of construction industry work and is consistent with other states’ orders.

The following strategies, which are derived from CDC and OSHA workplace recommendations, have been and are being implemented on our construction industry jobsites across the state. Our organizations have been promoting the universal implementation of these measures to safeguard Minnesota construction industry jobsites through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak, and we will continue to do so.

- Worker education – through specific communications and posters – of the importance of frequent handwashing, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, and staying home when sick. All employees must carefully observe these requirements.
- Careful attention to jobsite toilet and hand cleaning facilities. All employers must ensure that these facilities are in clean, working order and stocked with soap and/or hand sanitizer.
- Jobsite and equipment cleanliness. Jobsites must be kept clean, with frequent cleaning of any frequently touched surfaces on the site. Any tools or equipment that might be shared by workers must be cleaned before and after use.
- Workers are being instructed to observe a minimum distance of six (6) feet between individuals to increase physical space between workers at the worksite. This includes pre-work and post-work events of all kinds.
- Employers are modifying their jobsite communications, planning, and schedules to eliminate group gatherings. This includes changes to or the elimination of pre-job conferences, communal break locations, and any other activity that would bring a group of people together on the jobsite. Policies for material deliveries and other third-party jobsite visits are being altered. Employers are simultaneously implementing new strategies to ensure ongoing, successful jobsite communications.

These and other measures – which include remote work directives in office settings – have the full support of labor and management. We will continue to support and take the steps necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public.