

COVID-19 GUIDANCE RESTARTING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Introduction

The COVID-19 virus has introduced unprecedented challenges to our nation and the Commonwealth, including the local communities which we all serve. As per Governor Wolf's orders beginning March 12, 2020, decisive mitigation actions were taken by the Commonwealth, the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the PA Turnpike Commission to slow the virus's spread in an effort to protect citizens, employees, and business partners alike. In conjunction with the Governor's order, PennDOT and the PA Turnpike Commission quickly placed construction projects on hold, first regionally and then statewide to minimize exposure for agency, private-sector employees, and residents of the communities where they live and work.

In the days immediately following the construction suspension, at the direction of PennDOT Acting Secretary and PA Turnpike Chair Yassmin Gramian, P.E., PennDOT, the PA Turnpike Commission, and the PA Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) began an effort to work with our industry partners on solutions to restarting construction projects with a focus of avoiding the spread of COVID-19. A team including representatives from PennDOT, the PA Turnpike Commission, the PA Division Office of FHWA, the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC), and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies of PA (ACEC/PA) have worked collectively and diligently to develop COVID-19 guidance to restart highway construction.

This document provides guidance for use by PennDOT and the PA Turnpike Commission in restarting construction projects that were suspended in response to COVID-19 mitigation.

For reference, this document contains two sections as follows:

- Section 1: COVID-19 Guidance: Phased-In Process for Restarting Construction Projects
- Section 2: Guidance for the following operations as referenced in Section 1
 - Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan Implementation
 - Construction Project COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
 - COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines
 - Implementation of Fabrication, Materials, Testing, and Labor Compliance Guidance
 - Guidance for Other Agency Participation in the Construction Restart
 - Contract Adjustments and Claim Avoidance Due to COVID-19 Work Suspension Guidelines
 - Guidelines for Occupying Facilities

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Section 1: COVID-19 Guidance: Phased-In Process for Restarting Construction Projects

Overview:

The first goal in restarting construction projects is to protect our customers, employees, and their families. The second is to do the best we can to serve the millions of Pennsylvanians who are looking to us to complete needed infrastructure work.

Guidance:

The Department of Transportation (Department) and the PA Turnpike will use a three phased approach to restart projects. The approach will be based on several factors. The phased approach allows for control in restarting suspended construction projects. More specifically, guidelines for fabrication, materials, testing, and labor compliance are provided. Recommendations for use by the Department/PA Turnpike and Contractor staff to minimize contract cost adjustments and claims avoidance are also provided. Guidelines are provided for maintaining facilities for each entity to follow.

- **Phase 1:** Restart projects that can meet social distancing for all operations while implementing and evaluating best practices.
 - This phase will allow the Department/PA Turnpike to review and evaluate best practices for safety and social distancing to incorporate into the next phase of projects to restart.
- **Phase 2:** Restart additional projects where some activities may make it difficult to achieve social distancing, but plans will have been developed and implemented to address those operations. For example, carpenters inside a confined building space may find it difficult to achieve social distancing.
 - The Department/PA Turnpike and Contractor management staff would discuss alternative solutions to make social distancing possible or rearrange construction schedules so at-risk activities can be completed in compliance with social distancing.
- **Phase 3:** Restart all remaining projects.
 - These projects may be projects not started because of impacts associated with utilities, railroads, etc. Project would not start until those issues were addressed and would not impact the project schedule.

Phase 1 Projects Restart Process

1. Management from the Department/PA Turnpike will contact Contractor/Consultant staff for restart and Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan guidelines to restart projects. Communication can occur via phone and will be followed up with written correspondence submitted through a Project Collaboration System.
2. The Contractor/Consultant shall determine staff available to work as requested and confirm start date with Department/PA Turnpike.
3. The Contractor/Consultant shall reference the [Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan Implementation](#) to address project specific COVID-19 and social distancing and submit to the Department/PA Turnpike for review and acceptance. Work cannot start until supplemental plan is accepted by the Department/PA Turnpike.
4. The Contractor/Consultant shall perform all necessary planning, supervision, and training activities to ensure all requirements of the accepted Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan are fully met for all workers employed in the construction contract.
5. The Department/PA Turnpike and the Contractor/Consultant shall hold a virtual restart progress meeting prior to work starting (at a minimum discuss and document the following items).
 1. Outline steps to evaluate effectiveness of the Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan (recommend daily discussions between the Department/PA Turnpike and Contractor/Consultant Staff).
 2. Discuss with the Department/PA Turnpike [Risk-Based Inspection](#) guidelines and process that will reduce interaction and achieve social distancing.
 3. Discuss changes to [Fabrication, Materials, Testing, and Labor Compliance](#) guidelines and processes to be utilized by the Department/PA Turnpike, Consultant, and Contractor during construction operations.
 4. The Department/PA Turnpike and Contractor shall identify construction operations that are dependent on personnel from other local, state and Federal agencies to be on-site for inspections and coordination. Reference [Guidance for Other Agency Participation in the Construction Restart](#).
 5. Review communication method for issues encountered during project operations. Reference [Contract Cost Adjustments and Claims Avoidance](#) Section.
 6. Review planned work that may present challenges to follow the Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan, including if any of these challenges are expected to lead to a request for additional payment.
6. Schedule submissions should follow the time frames outlined in the [Contract Cost Adjustments and Claims Avoidance](#) Section.
7. The Department/PA Turnpike and Contractor/Consultant will evaluate the effectiveness of the Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan and document lessons learned to be incorporated into Phase 2 projects.

8. The Department/PA Turnpike shall work jointly with the Contractor/Consultant to consider appropriate means for minimizing [Contract Cost Adjustments and Claims Avoidance](#).
9. The Department/PA Turnpike, Consultant, and Contractor shall follow *the* [Guidelines for Occupying Facilities](#) as it pertains to each entity.
10. PennDOT documents referenced and not included with this guidance are available for viewing in the PennDOT Project Collaboration Center (PPCC) for Department projects, and these documents are available for viewing in Kahua for PA Turnpike projects.

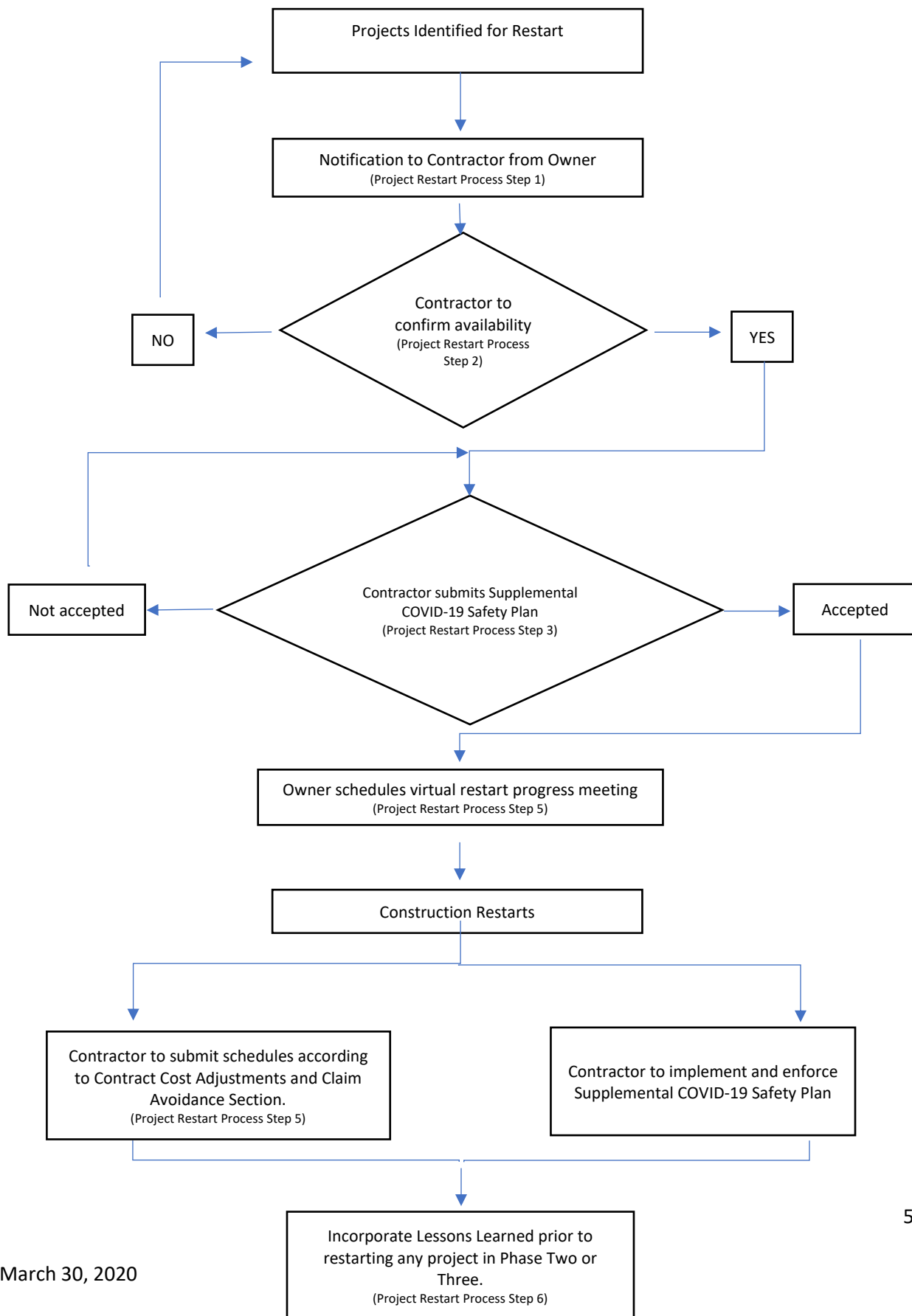
Phase 2 Project Restart Process

1. Phase 2 projects should start a minimum of 10 working days after initial project restarts to allow for lessons learned from Phase 1 Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plans to be incorporated into Phase 2 plans.
2. Upon approval to start Phase 1, Management from the Department/PA Turnpike may contact Contractor/Consultant staff to share projects listed as Phase 2 for restart to begin discussing expected start dates and the Safety and Restart Implementation document.
3. Subsequently the Department/PA Turnpike, Consultants, and Contractors will follow the process established for Phase 1 Projects Restart Process.

Phase 3 Project Restart Process

1. Phase 3 projects should start upon resolution of issues impacting projects but are expected to be after Phase 2 project restarts.
2. Upon approval to start Phase 2, Management from the Department/PA Turnpike may contact Contractor/Consultant staff to share projects listed as Phase 3 Projects for restart to begin discussing expected start dates and the Safety and Restart Implementation document.
3. Incorporate lessons learned from Phase 1 and 2 project Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plans.
4. Subsequently the Department/PA Turnpike, Consultants, and Contractors will follow the process established for Phase 1 Projects Restart Process.

PROJECT RESTART – Contractors



Section 2: Guidance for the following operations as referenced in Section 1

- **Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan Implementation**
- **Construction Project COVID-19 Safety Guidelines**
- **COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines**
- **Implementation of Fabrication, Materials, Testing, and Labor Compliance Guidance**
- **Guidance for Other Agency Participation in the Construction Restart**
- **Contract Adjustments and Claim Avoidance Due to COVID-19 Work Suspension Guidelines**
- **Guidelines for Occupying Facilities**

Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan Implementation

- I. Contractors and consultants will be required to submit a Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan containing the following minimum items before starting/restarting construction projects:
 - 1) **Identify Designated Representative (Title and/or Name)**
 - a) Responsible for compliance.
 - b) Identify procedure which the designated representative will implement to screen employees for potential COVID-19 exposure.
 - 2) **Personal (Employee) Responsibilities**
 - a) Company policy addressing employee hygiene, illness or COVID-19 exposure.
 - 3) **Social Distancing**
 - 4) **Jobsite/Office Best Practices**
 - a) Project site cleaning protocol.
 - b) Operation specific protocols as needed where social distancing is not feasible (i.e., Engineered solution or other methodology to comply with CDC Guidelines).
 - 5) **Managing Sick Employees**
 - a) Process addressing employees that develop potential COVID-19 symptoms while at work (fever, cough, shortness of breath).
 - b) Process for managing employees before returning to work.
 - c) Process for response to employee notifying employer of positive test result for COVID-19.
 - 6) **Material Deliveries and Anyone Entering the Jobsite**
 - a) Process to assure all outside vendors, suppliers, and subcontractors comply with Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan.
 - b) Follow guidelines for delivery tickets as specified in the [Fabrication, Materials, Testing and Labor Compliance Guidance](#) section.
 - 7) **Training, Education, and Communication**
 - a) Process to inform and educate all employees of information contained in the Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan prior to restart. Include proposed training.
 - 8) **Resources**
 - a) CDC, OSHA, PA Department of Health.
- II. [Construction Project COVID-19 Safety Guidelines](#) are available for use in whole or in part for Contractors and Consultants.

- III. The following entities will submit their supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan as such:
- Contractor - PPCC (PennDOT), Kahua (PA Turnpike)
 - Consultant – Via email (PennDOT), Kahua (PA Turnpike)
 - Asphalt, Concrete, Aggregate Producers – submit to DME/DMM as addendum to existing QC plan.
 - Fabricators and Pre-casters- submit to respective agency representative.
- IV. Contractor to install "COVID-19 Safety Plan in effect" sign at project entrance and reasonable locations as agreed upon at the project site. Contractors are permitted to fabricate their own signs at project start-up until they are able to obtain fabricated signs from an approved supplier (authorization will be provided to allow payment).
- V. Subcontractors are to submit their own Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan or follow the prime contractors COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- VI. The following process will be utilized on each project to address potential noncompliance with the Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan:
- All employees are responsible to identify and report noncompliance to their respective designated representative.
 - Designated representative for either Contractor, Department, or PA Turnpike will communicate potential noncompliance to the respective designated representative(s).
 - Appropriate and prompt corrective action is expected by the appropriate designated representative.
 - If appropriate and prompt corrective action is not taken, follow the partnering issue resolution escalation matrix process.
 - If repetitive or blatant noncompliance occurs, either designated representative has the authority to invoke a project safety stand-down. The safety stand-down would be maintained until corrective action is taken to the satisfaction of both designated representatives.
- VII. Contractors and Consultants are expected to stay informed of CDC, OSHA, and PA Department of Health updates regarding COVID-19.

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Construction Project COVID-19 Safety Guidelines (For Department and PA Turnpike Use)

Overview:

As the Commonwealth responds to the COVID-19 outbreak, the following information represents the minimum requirements for active construction projects.

Guidance:

The “**Stakeholders**” (i.e. Department/PA Turnpike, Consultants, and Contractors) shall each designate a representative on the project to administer each employer’s COVID-19 safety guidelines. The Contractor is responsible for conveying the guidelines to all material suppliers and subcontractors.

Personal Responsibilities

- It is critical that employees NOT report to work while they are experiencing illness symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
 - Employees should seek medical attention if they have or develop symptoms.
- Employees that develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 should get **medical attention immediately**. Emergency warning signs include*: Trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face.
 - *This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.
- Refer to Department document *COVID-19 Hygiene and Cleaning Best Practices* for personal hygiene, cleaning (project office and job site), for COVID-19 best practices.

Social Distancing

- Social Distancing: **Staying Away** from **Close Contact** in public places.
- Do not host large group meetings. CDC recommends avoiding gatherings of 10+ people; and when meeting, keep a minimum 6-foot distance between people. Perform meetings online, via conference call, or outdoors (while maintaining 6-foot distance between people), whenever possible.
- Avoid using other workers’ phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment when possible.
- Limit the number of people on a jobsite and allow personnel to work from home when possible.
- Avoid physical contact such as hand-shaking and other contact greetings.

- Inspection staff only go into the project field office for essential functions. Do as much work from your vehicle as possible.
- Ensure electronic devices are charged every night and have a car charger available for each device.

Jobsite / Office Practices

- Install "COVID-19 Safety Plan in effect" sign at project entrance and reasonable locations on the project site.
- Designated representatives should ask the following questions to their designated employees prior to entering the workplace. If they answer "yes" to any, they should be asked to leave the workplace immediately. Anyone asked to leave should not return to work until 72-hours after they are free from a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - Have you, or anyone in your family or any one you have been in close contact with, been in contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19?
 - Have you been medically directed to self-quarantine due to possible exposure to COVID-19?
 - Are you having trouble breathing or have you had flu-like symptoms within the past 48 hours, including: fever, cough, or shortness of breath?

If a thermometer is available at the workplace, the employee shall take their own temperature and advise the observer of the reading. The thermometer must be cleaned between each use (an oral or an ear thermometer is not recommended). If the reading is 100.4 degrees F or higher, the employee will be directed to go home and contact their medical provider for further guidance. In an acute case where the employee requires transportation, isolate the employee and call 911 for assistance.

- Stakeholders shall remind / update all employees on the job site during all safety meetings / talks on current COVID-19 guidelines and ask if anyone is feeling ill. If "yes", follow the directions listed under Managing Sick Employees.
- Communicate key CDC recommendations (and post signage where appropriate) to your staff as potential safety talks:
 - [How to protect yourself](#)
 - [If you are sick](#)
 - [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - Place posters that encourage [staying home when sick](#), [cough and sneeze etiquette](#), and [hand hygiene](#) at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

Employees shall wear appropriate PPE on the job site as required and shall not share personal PPE with another employee.

While working in a potential COVID-19 environment, it is important to reduce the risk of potential exposures by keeping all work vehicles, equipment, and tools clean. PennDOT employees' reference *Protocol 32, PennDOT Vehicle/Equipment Cleanliness document*.

Managing Sick Employees

- Isolate sick employees. CDC recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be isolated from other employees and to seek medical attention and / or be sent home immediately. Reference PennDOT document *Coronavirus Screening - Symptom Summary* contained in current version of the *Entering PennDOT Facilities During COVID-19 Mitigation*.
- If employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 or shows symptoms of COVID-19, the employee should consult the employee's primary care provider and the employer before returning to work.
- The stakeholder will communicate Human Resources practices for managing sick time related to COVID-19 to their employees.
- For any employees who are higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of age or because of a serious long-term health problem, it is important for them to take actions to reduce the risk of getting sick with the disease as per CDC guidance - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>
- After notification from an employee that tests positive for COVID-19 the stakeholder will take the following steps and follow current CDC guidelines:
 - Project will initiate a safety stand-down for a minimum of 24 hrs. or until compliance with CDC guidelines for return to work.
 - Communication of positive test to all employees who were present at the job site and all project stakeholders while maintaining patient confidentiality (HIPAA).
 - Supervisor shall investigate additional potential exposure while maintaining patient confidentiality (HIPAA).
 - Deep clean of project as described in the stakeholder's safety plan.
- Should you need additional support services during this self-monitoring and social distancing period, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health website, www.health.pa.gov or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

Material Deliveries & Anyone Entering the Jobsite

- Anyone entering the project site including all outside vendors and truck drivers are to practice social distancing.
- Subcontractors are to submit their own COVID-19 Safety Plan or follow the prime contractors COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- Contractor will collect daily delivery tickets in a sealable container or baggie and quarantine for a minimum 24 hours before providing to Department/PA Turnpike Commission representative. PPCC submission, eTicketing, email, or photographing paper documents/tickets is applicable.

Resources

- Hand washing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d914EnpU4Fo&feature=youtu.be>
- CDC Handout: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
- If sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Full List of EPA disinfectants: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf
- CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html
- Coronavirus Q&A from the World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>
- Department of Labor OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>
- OSHA Issues New COVID-19 Preparedness Guidance for Employers: <https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchresults?pSearch=3990>
- OSHA reminds employers COVID-19 is a recordable illness: <https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20200311/NEWS06/912333495/OSHA-reminds-employers-COVID-19-is-a-recordable-illness-coronavirus>
- OSHA Issues Guidance to Employers on Preventing Worker Exposure to Coronavirus <https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchresults?pSearch=3989>

COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines

Overview:

Moving to a risk-based inspection scenario serves two main objectives:

1. Reduce human interfacing and assisting with achieving social distancing on construction sites.
 - Project IIC's and inspection staff are to maximize social distance inspection opportunities (i.e. inspect from afar/in the general area of the operation while crews are present to keep an eye on the progression of the work and relocate to the actual work during hold point inspections).
2. Ensure construction quality when available inspection personnel may be limited during risk-based inspection.

Guidelines:

The following are the main concepts behind this initiative:

- These risk-based inspection guidelines are not intended to replace the normal inspection requirements. They are intended to guide and allocate the use of potentially limited resources to critical activities and promote social distancing of inspection staff on low risk operations where 'hold point' inspections are deemed adequate considering the need to maximize social distancing because of the COVID-19 threat.
- Prior to physical work, virtual meetings are to be held with the representative, inspection field staff, and Contractor project field staff to jointly discuss startup operations for the first week. As part of this meeting, the COVID-19, risk-based inspection principles/policy is to be discussed along with a review of operations where this is to be implemented on the project. The objective will be to ensure both parties understand the modified inspection procedures and to ensure productive and quality work by the Contractor.
- Items listed have been identified with low to moderate risk to project quality, and safety.
- Additional operations eligible for risk-based inspection may be identified on a project by project basis. These operations shall be identified by the Representative.
- For the risk-based inspection operations, inspectors shall document that work was performed without full-time inspection during the operation and was inspected at hold points and/or upon completion, in accordance with these guidelines.
- Items identified can either be inspected after the work is complete, or at appropriate interim hold points.

- Risk-based Inspection will require hold points (as listed below), which will inherently require project inspection staff and Contractor staff to increase communications regarding scheduling, when work will begin, and when hold point inspections are required.
- Certain operations are recommended for Pre-Operation meetings which at a minimum shall:
 - Discuss operation work limits, specifications and material usage.
 - Identify agreed to hold points for operations.
 - Establish protocols for contractor request for hold point inspections
 - Establish response times for Representatives.
 - Advance communications regarding scheduling and execution of work are encouraged to occur between all parties prior to commencement of work operation.
 - Shall establish social distancing best practices for operation, including required attendees for hold point inspections.
 - Required attendees could include: superintendent, foreman responsible for work, IIC, and inspection staff.
 - These pre-operation meetings may be held virtually if practical.

The IIC is to prepare minutes of pre-operation meetings and distribute within 24 hours.

- The Contractors are 100% committed to quality and safety in addition to accepting an increased awareness while inspector presence may be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions and procedures.
- Refer to PennDOT Publication 2, Project Office Manual, Part C, Section 1.17 for additional *Risk-Based Construction Inspection Guidelines*.
- **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): Consider use of UAS for risk-based inspections in accordance with PennDOT policy for *UAS Usage for Construction Inspection*.**
- This guidance will remain in effect on the project until Governor Wolf's in place COVID-19 mitigation measures are rescinded.

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Matrix of Construction Operations and Risk-Based Inspection

Developed: 3/27/2020

Risk Based Inspection Items - If not shown on this list, normal inspection is required, unless risk-based criteria is determined to be acceptable by Project ACE.

Work Activity	Risk	Pre-Operation Meeting Discussion Items*	Minimum Required Hold Points	Remarks
General Work				
Clearing and Grubbing	Low	Waste Sites	Upon completion of entire limits or sub-areas as determined at pre-operation meeting	
		Pre-operations E&S control requirements / verification		
		Associated environmental restrictions		
		Establish hold point boundaries for completion inspections		
E&S Installation/Removal	Low	Same as listed for clearing and grubbing	Upon completion of initial installation	
		Review E&S plans	Upon completion of perimeter control installation	
			Prior to dewatering operations	
			Upon completion of clearing and grubbing	
Excavation	Moderate	Waste areas, on-site or off-site	Upon reaching excavation template	
		Potential unforeseen issues and differing site conditions	Upon encountering unforeseen/differing site conditions	
		Potential utility conflicts	Upon encountering unsuitable subgrade	
		Method of quantity measurement	Upon encountering unforeseen utility conflicts	
		Support of excavation		

Risk Based Inspection Items - If not shown on this list, normal inspection is required, unless risk-based criteria is determined to be acceptable by Project ACE.				
Work Activity	Risk	Pre-Operation Meeting Discussion Items*	Minimum Required Hold Points	Remarks
Rock/Rip Rap Placement	Low	Template, sequence of operations	Upon layout of limits	
		In-stream permit requirements	Upon reaching bottom elevation with geotextile in-place	
		SOS/Material certs	Upon completion of rip-rap placement	
Line Painting	Moderate	Materials, surface preparation	After layout complete	
		MPT requirements	Upon completion	
		Weather requirements		
Electrical Work	Low	Materials, conduit size, etc	Upon layout of conduit and JBs	ITS follows same guidance
		Connections from conduit to JBs	Upon completion of excavation	
			Upon completion of work	
Highway Lighting/Sign Lighting/Signals/Supports/Foundations	Low	Include traffic unit representatives for signal pole location approval	Upon approval of foundation layout locations	Include local representatives if necessary
		Ensure utilities are located prior to meeting	Prior to concrete placement	ITS follows same guidance
		Ensure curb lines, edge of road, and guiderail locations are laid out	Upon completion	
		Verify foundation elevations		
Post-Mounted Sign Erection (Side of Road, Not Overhead, No Foundations)	Low		Upon completion of layout	
			Upon Completion	

* Refer to COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines for list of standard discussion items for all pre-operation meetings in addition to those listed in table.

Risk Based Inspection Items - If not shown on this list, normal inspection is required, unless risk-based criteria is determined to be acceptable by Project ACE.

Work Activity	Risk	Pre-Operation Meeting Discussion Items*	Minimum Required Hold Points	Remarks
Roadway				
Excavation	Low	See general excavation pre-operation meeting items	Upon reaching template	
Inlet Replacement/Rebuild	Low		Prior to setting, after excavation complete	Need inspection for backfill/checking inverts
Parallel Underdrain	Low	Verify potential utility conflicts, outlet locations	Upon completion of layout	
	Low	Discuss driveway terminations	Upon completion of excavation/geo installation	
	Low		Upon Completion	
Temporary and Permanent Impact Attenuating Devices	Moderate	Review manufacturer's installation instructions and locations	Upon completion of layout	
			Upon completion of anchor hole drilling and preparation	
			Upon Completion	
Guiderail Installation, Fencing (ROW, Exclusionary, etc.)	Low	Potential obstructions, utilities, special circumstances	Upon completion of layout	
			Upon completion	
Bridge/Structure Work (New Construction)				
Bridge Demo for Bridges Not Over Roadways	Moderate	Driven by approved demo plan	Incorporated into demo plan, to be approved by SCE prior to commencing work	
		Allowable construction loadings	Upon completion of layout of sawcuts to verify deck thickness prior to sawcutting	

* Refer to COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines for list of standard discussion items for all pre-operation meetings in addition to those listed in table.

Risk Based Inspection Items - If not shown on this list, normal inspection is required, unless risk-based criteria is determined to be acceptable by Project ACE.

Work Activity	Risk	Pre-Operation Meeting Discussion Items*	Minimum Required Hold Points	Remarks
Foundation Inspection/Excavation	Moderate	Potential unforeseen issues and differing site conditions	Upon completion of excavation to plan grade	
		Waste areas, on-site or off-site	Upon completion of excavating to footer or Pile Cap elevation	
		Potential utility conflicts	Hold for foundation approval	
		Method of quantity measurement	Upon completion of pile layout, if applicable	
		Support of excavation	Upon encountering unforeseen issue	
Formwork	Low		Upon Completion	
Falsework	Moderate	Review approved falsework plan	After erection, Inspector and P.E. certification, or as-determined at pre-operation meeting	
SIP's and Deck Overhangs	Moderate	No welding in negative moment regions	Upon layout of SIP's and overhangs	
		Review approved SIP and overhang submittals.	Hold prior to rebar placement, Inspector and P.E. certification, or as-determined at pre-operation meeting	
Shear Stud Installation	Low		Hold for weld testing	
			Hold after each span is complete	
Rebar	Low		Prior to concrete placement/release	
			For bridge decks, also hold after first mat is installed	
			Upon encountering fabrication/fitment problems/adjustments	

* Refer to COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines for list of standard discussion items for all pre-operation meetings in addition to those listed in table.

Risk Based Inspection Items - If not shown on this list, normal inspection is required, unless risk-based criteria is determined to be acceptable by Project ACE.

Work Activity	Risk	Pre-Operation Meeting Discussion Items*	Minimum Required Hold Points	Remarks
Bridge (Rehab/Preservation)				
Patches/Deteriorated Concrete Repairs	Moderate	Discuss if possible to perform layout while also following social distancing guidelines.	Upon completion of laying out patches	Layout completed as a joint effort, if possible while also practicing social distancing
		Allowable construction loadings	After removal	If social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained, then work will need to be deferred
			Prior to concrete placement/release, verification of surface prep	
Expansion Dam Replacement	Low	Appropriate joint opening based on temperature	Upon completion of sawcut layout to verify deck thickness prior to sawcutting	
		Splice/installation procedures	Upon completion of concrete removal	
			Upon completion of rebar and extrusion install	
			Prior to concrete placement/release, verification of surface prep	

* Refer to COVID-19, Risk-Based Inspection Guidelines for list of standard discussion items for all pre-operation meetings in addition to those listed in table.

Implementation of Fabrication, Materials, Testing and Labor Compliance Guidance

Overview:

All guidance provided below that deviates from contractual Publication 408, Specifications or procedures and policies contained within Publication 2, Project Office Manual (POM) have been reviewed and approved by the Federal Highway Administration for use on projects authorized to restart construction and must be implemented as a project work authorization prior to restarting construction on the project.

Guidance:

All references to “Representative” include the Department, PA Turnpike, and Consultant inspectors.

- **Shop Fabrication for Construction Products**
 - Products are currently being fabricated/produced but are not being shipped to project sites due to construction work suspension.
 - Shop Fabrication
 - Recommend Fabricator uses electronic delivery to transmit required documentation to the Representative. If electronic delivery can't be done, the required documentation shall be placed in a sealed container and quarantined for 24 hours before being provided to the Representative.
 - Fabricator needs to verify which projects have been authorized to restart construction and coordinate shipments of shop fabricated components to those projects.
 - Recommend having pre-fabrication meetings virtually.
 - Practice social distancing best practices when stamping paperwork or structural components.
 - Precast Concrete Products, Publication 145
 - Practice social distancing best practices while performing mock-up and pre/post-pour dimensional inspections.
 - When multiple Representatives are at a producer, recommend one (1) designated Representative be assigned to complete and process all TR-447s, Sample Identification Forms.
 - Recommend only the Representative handling, molding, and collecting the sample be responsible for delivery of the sample to the Laboratory Testing Section (LTS).
 - If the producer strips the forms of a sample, the sample will remain quarantined for 24 hours before being provided to the Representative.
 - Fabricated Structural Steel, Publication 135
 - Practice social distancing best practices while witnessing non-destruction testing.
 - Recommend only one (1) designated Representative for each shift perform all paint testing.

- **Material Deliveries to Project Site**

- Contractor designates one (1) individual to collect all delivery tickets.
 - Individual will be required to communicate information from the delivery tickets to the Representative.
 - Contractor to scan delivery tickets and submit to Representative through a Project Collaboration System (PCS) or Designated individual will have truck driver drop the ticket into a sealable container.
 - Tickets will remain quarantined for 24 hours before being provided to the Representative.
 - All certifications will be submitted to the Representative through a PCS.
 - No signatures or documentation on delivery tickets.
- eTicketing
 - If eTicketing was included in the project's contract, proceed with the requirements contained within the contract.
 - Producers capable of eTicketing may elect to provide delivery tickets in this manner at no additional cost. GPS locations for delivery trucks will not be required.
- Asphalt Delivery Tickets
 - The Representative and Contractor will discuss the process to follow for collecting and distributing delivery tickets.
 - Producer will provide at a minimum the first and last delivery ticket to the Representative electronically, so job mix formula and daily tons can be verified.
 - Representative to maintain a paving book, either hard copy or electronic, to document temperatures, yield checks, sample locations, etc. throughout the day.
- Concrete Delivery Tickets
 - The Representative and Contractor will discuss the process to follow for collecting and distributing delivery tickets.
 - Producer will provide all batcher mixer slips and delivery tickets to the Representative electronically, so water/cement ratio can be calculated for every load before placement.

- **Calibrations at Producers**

- Scales
 - Producer to use a certified independent 3rd party to witness and document scale calibrations.
- Bins, Pumps, Admixtures, etc.
 - Performed by producer with signed calibration documentation.
- Producer to email all calibration documentation to the Representative.
- Representative could require verification of calibrations when restrictions are lifted.

- **Mix Designs**

- Required to use 2020 designs if they are approved. If not, 2019 designs are permitted until which time the 2020 designs are approved for use.

- **Asphalt Acceptance Testing**

- For Department projects, all acceptance testing is deferred to the LTS unless otherwise approved by the District. This can also be applicable for projects delivered using alternate methods utilizing Publication 408, Specifications.
 - Loose Box and Core Samples
 - Representative will determine sample locations and direct the Contractor to obtain the sample.
 - Once the Contractor has obtained the sample, the security and delivery of the samples to the Representative will be according to the procedures agreed upon at the pre-placement meeting. At a minimum, the following must be included in these procedures:
 - Identification and security of the samples
 - Acceptable container
 - Method of delivery to the Representative
- For PA Turnpike projects, current specification requirements are to continue except the following:
 - The Contractor will measure pavement cores for depth in the presence of the Representative to witness at a safe distance.

- **Concrete Acceptance Testing**

- If the Contractor can develop a method to disinfect the air meter prior to the Representative performing a verification test that is approved by the District, concrete acceptance testing can continue as specified. Otherwise, use the process described below.
- For Department projects, the Contractor will continue to perform quality control testing, and the Representative will perform acceptance testing using separate equipment at a separate testing location as detailed below. This can also be applicable for projects delivered using alternate methods utilizing Publication 408, Specifications.
 - Contractor will provide separate equipment for exclusive use by the Representative required to perform the acceptance testing and sufficient equipment for backup.
 - While the Contractor is witnessing the Representative perform the acceptance testing, the Contractor will immediately notify the Representative if the acceptance testing is not being performed properly and ensure corrective actions are implemented before continuing.
 - Representative will obtain a sample to perform slump and air content testing using separate equipment.
 - Representative will identify and mold the compressive strength cylinders according to PTM 611. Cylinder identification is essential in performing virtual compressive strength testing.
 - Representative will strip the cylinders and transfer the identification information onto the cylinders according to PTM 611.
 - Contractor will cure the cylinders as required and perform compressive strength testing. Representative will witness compressive strength testing either at a safe distance or virtually.
- For PA Turnpike projects, current specification requirements are to continue.

- **PennDOT/NECEPT Aggregate, Asphalt, and Concrete Certified Technician Programs**
 - In accordance with Governor Wolf's March 11, 2020 directive on Planning for Large Meetings, Conferences, Trainings, and Community Events, all remaining PennDOT/NECEPT technician courses after March 16, 2020 were canceled. Guidance on each technician program for the 2020 construction season is provided below:
 - **Aggregate:** <https://www.superpave.psu.edu/assets/docs/Cancellation-MEMO-for-PennDOT-NECEPT-Aggregate-Technician-Courses.pdf>
 - **Asphalt:** <https://www.superpave.psu.edu/assets/docs/Cancellation-MEMO-for-PennDOT-NECEPT-Asphalt-Technician-Certification-Program.pdf>
 - **Concrete:** <https://www.superpave.psu.edu/assets/docs/Cancellation-MEMO-for-PennDOT-NECEPT-Concrete-Field-Testing-Technician-Courses.pdf>
- **Labor Compliance**
 - Project Bulletin Board
 - Contractor will visibly display all required postings on the project's bulletin board and protect all postings from the weather. No postings can be double sided.
 - For Federally funded projects, the Contractor will clearly display on the project's bulletin board the one-page EEO Policies on company letterhead for all their approved subcontractor's with contract values over \$10,000.00.
 - Certified Payrolls
 - Contractor will submit certified payrolls to the Representative through a PCS.
 - Labor Compliance Wage Rate Interviews
 - Representative will continue to perform wage rate interviews at the frequency established in the POM practicing social distancing during the interview, however, the Contractor's employee signature will not be required. "COVID-19" will be documented in employee signature block by the Representative.
 - Representative will verify wage rate interview after receiving the certified payroll through a PCS.
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Guidance for Other Agency Participation in the Construction Restart

Overview:

Once a project is authorized to restart construction, guidance is provided below identifying items projects need to consider related to our partner agency's availability to perform project site visits due to their internal policies implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Guidance:

All references to "Representative" include the Department, PA Turnpike, and Consultant inspectors.

Our agency partners, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), County Conservation District (CCD), etc. play a vital role in delivering our projects. During construction, these partners are involved with reviewing and approving permit amendments, sequencing changes, and erosion and sediment pollution control best management practices (E&S BMP) revisions.

- After projects restart, all permit requirements will be enforced.
 - Contractor and Representative to review construction activities that will begin and ensure all work will be in compliance with any permit restrictions.
 - If project work is not able to be completed by date restrictions established in the permit(s), the Representative will attempt to work with the agencies to obtain an amendment for the work to be completed.
 - Other Agency Participation in the Construction Restart:
 - Representative should contact their agency partner(s) to understand what, if any, restrictions their respective agency may have implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 that could impact their availability to perform site visits.
 - Partner with the agency in developing alternate delivery methods, if needed, to ensure compliance with all permit requirements.
 - Environmental preconstruction meetings before construction begins
 - If this meeting has not already occurred on the project, the Representative will schedule this required meeting with DEP or CCD.
 - Permit Amendments
 - Major Permit Amendment
 - DEP, USACE, and/or CCD may visit the project site to review the proposed work as part of their assessment.
 - Minor Permit Amendment
 - DEP, USACE, and/or CCD typically do not visit the project site to review the proposed work as part of their assessment.
 - Revisions to E&S construction sequencing or BMPs
 - CCD may visit projects to review the changes as part of their assessment.
 - Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Avoidance Measures
 - Agencies may visit projects to verify compliance with PNDI requirements.
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Contract Adjustments and Claim Avoidance Due to COVID-19 Work Suspension Guidelines

Overview:

This document provides guidance for project teams to work together in a spirit of partnering to resolve problems, remove barriers to the greatest extent possible, and be fair in negotiations and resolutions. The intent is to set a framework where communication is open, honest, and timely so financial impacts can be minimized through sharing ideas and working together with common goals, to resolve issues as quickly as possible. It is not the intent of this document to modify any of the existing provisions of any of the contracts between the Department and Contractors relating to highway construction projects to which it pertains. To the extent any conflict or inconsistency is found to exist between this document and any provision of any of the aforementioned contracts, the provisions of the contract shall prevail.

Guidance:

Communications and Team Meetings

- Each project will establish a project communication team during the first day of physical restart of work to discuss how to proactively and productively move the project forward, using a partnering approach.
 - Recommended team members should include but not be limited to:
 - Project manager
 - Project superintendent
 - Project scheduler
 - Project ACE/M
 - Project Inspector-in-charge
 - Safety Officer
 - Additionally, for complex projects, it is recommended that the ADE-Construction and the equivalent counterpart of the Contractor's management also attend.
 - This team shall have a restart meeting, preferably virtual, on the first day of restarting physical work to discuss the following items:
 - Contractors to provide two-week look ahead schedules on a weekly basis to assist the Representative with identifying additional risk-based inspection operations and to coordinate these inspections with Contractor as explained above.
 - Discussion on operations that were ongoing prior to the suspension that will not resume in the first week, and why. Examples would be any operation that is not being restarted due to concerns with compliance with the *COVID-19 Supplemental Safety Plans*, such as social distancing. In the event this occurs on the project, detailed information needs to be submitted in order to determine if it can be mitigated in any way.
 - In the event any operations can resume, but the Contractor asserts that it is more inefficient due to social distancing, these need to be clearly outlined in order for the owner and Contractor to track operations. Solutions will be explored that are mutually beneficial, respecting the need to fully comply with safety plans.
 - Any barriers or concerns with the restart.
 - Discussion of items that the Contractor, Consultant Inspection firm, and Department or the PA Turnpike need guidance or decisions on related to the restart.
 - Discussion should be held regarding schedule submission requirements (details below under schedule).

- A modified escalation matrix should be developed, specifically for the restart determining the timeframe for escalation for various types of issues to make decisions quickly and avoid delays.
- Progress meetings, preferably virtual, shall be held at a minimum of bi-weekly, but consideration should be given to holding meetings more often as needed based on the complexity of the contract. Decision on frequency should be mutually agreed upon by ACE/M, ACE-C for PA Turnpike and Contractor PM.

Schedule Management

- PROJECTS WITH NARRATIVE SCHEDULES
 - Projects with narrative schedules (or no schedules required) shall provide an updated schedule based the progress of the project on the date of the suspension. This shall be submitted within 10 work days of the restart date.
 - If it is deemed necessary, written direction will be given to Contractors to create a CPM Schedule based on the previously approved Narrative Schedule logic and submitted for approval as per the requirements under Projects With CPM Schedules below. All subsequent submissions and modifications will follow Projects With CPM Schedules requirements below.
- PROJECTS WITH CPM SCHEDULES:
 - The Contractor shall be required to update their CPM schedule no later than 5 work days after the project restart, with the “Suspension” date as the new Data Date. The Contractor and Owner will agree on the updated CPM submission and the update will become the official status of the project at the time of the “Suspension” directive. When Restart occurs, the Contractor will also submit another CPM update within 10 work days after the Restart and the update Data Date will correspond to the Restart Date. This update should indicate known impacts to the schedule based on required work rules to minimize COVID-19 exposure. When both updates have been submitted and agreed upon by the Contractor and Owner, a Time Impact Analysis (TIA) will be performed to determine the required Contract Adjustment, if needed, for each project. Contract Adjustment requests by Contractor may include reasonable options such as, but not limited to, Contract Completion Date extension, extension to the bituminous paving calendar, acceleration, double shifting, changes in contract restrictions, extension of date restrictions on critical operations and additional work hours.
 - If Contract Adjustments are deemed necessary, the Contractor shall incorporate the adjustments into their CPM Schedule Update submitted with the known Restart Date and submit the newly updated schedule using the same Restart Date as the submission Data Date. This second Restart schedule containing the Contract Adjustments, once accepted, will become the official project recovery schedule and the new project status schedule at the time of Restart.
 - CPM Schedule Updates shall be submitted on a monthly basis for the remainder of the project unless directed otherwise by the Owner.
 - The CPM Schedule Updates should be reviewed to accurately reflect all applicable permit, environmental and weather restricted activities such as, but not limited to, cold weather concrete placement, bituminous paving temperature restrictions, stream restrictions and endangered species work date restrictions.
 - The Contractor and Owner shall meet weekly to discuss and agree upon schedule progress and as well as any unexpected impacts to the schedule to make decisions to mitigate negative float.
 - Contractors and Owner shall agree on any potential inefficiencies prior to commencement of work.

Workforce and Equipment Tracking

- Project equipment should be documented by both the Owner and Contractor on the first day of restart.
- Compare equipment on site at restart to the inventory at time of suspension for benchmarking purposes.
- Discuss differences in equipment to assure the Contractor and Owner understand the reason any differences occurred.
- For initial period of restart, and until project reaches a point where operations are unaffected, detailed records of labor and equipment should be documented by operation, and not just on a project basis. Document progress as well.
- Contractor needs to inform owner on a daily basis of any claim of inefficiency or impact and provide written documentation within one week. Once documentation is initially submitted, it shall be submitted daily.

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Guidelines for Occupying Facilities

Overview:

All references to “Representative” include the Department/PA Turnpike, and Consultant inspectors. These guidelines provided below are effective immediately upon restarting projects and will remain in effect until Governor Wolf’s COVID-19 mitigation measures are rescinded.

- District Offices: Refer to Department document *Entering PennDOT Facilities During COVID-19 Mitigation* for entering building protocol.
- PA Turnpike Regional Facility: *Central Administration Building and Regional Offices are currently closed, and all the Engineering Department staff is working remotely. The opening of these offices is not required at the start of the construction project restarts. All Construction Engineering staff will continue to work remotely until procedures are established for opening these facilities by PA Turnpike Facilities Group.*
- PennDOT Maintenance Facilities: Refer to Department document *Entering PennDOT Facilities During COVID-19 Mitigation* for entering building protocol.
- Keystone Building: Refer to Department document *Entering PennDOT Facilities During COVID-19 Mitigation* for entering building protocol.
- Materials Testing Lab (PennDOT): Refer to Department document *Entering PennDOT Facilities During COVID-19 Mitigation* for entering building protocol.
- Somerset PA Turnpike Lab:
 - Until further notice, the Somerset PA Turnpike Lab will not be accepting any new asphalt samples for verification for an extended period. When construction operations return to work, the lab will continue to verify 2020 designs that were previously delivered to the lab. If additional 2020 designs require verification, tests will be conducted by the producer in their lab and witnessed by PA Turnpike Materials Staff following the producer’s safety guidelines.
 - At construction start-up, two PA Turnpike Materials Staff members will continue the 2020 design verification process for samples previously submitted. Each staff member will be in separate rooms working on different testing operations to maintain social distancing per CDC requirements. Staff members shall follow daily workspace cleaning protocols at the end of their shift in compliance with CDC guidelines as follows:
 - All work surfaces, doorknobs, light switches, testing equipment, and commonly accessed surfaces are to be disinfected following CDC guidelines.
 - All workspace equipment such as phones, computers, etc. are to be disinfected and secured.
 - Any additional supporting PA Turnpike Materials Staff will work remotely.
 - Visitors will not be permitted in Lab.

- Construction Project Field Offices

Goal is to maintain social distancing per the requirements of the CDC and to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in construction project field offices. The following guidelines are offered relative to construction field offices:

- The Representative will establish a digital log to document ingress and egress of staff accessing the field office.
- The number of inspection staff co-locating in field offices should be minimized and conform to social distancing requirements (6 ft min. spacing). To accomplish this, the following should be considered:
 - A maximum of one individual located in each available partitioned office space. Refer to PennDOT Pub. 408 for minimum number of partitioned rooms for Field Offices Types A-C.
 - Inspection staff should avoid working in field offices. See additional information below.
 - Contractor staff and visitors are not be permitted in field offices.
- Inspection staff should minimize time in the field office by maximizing time outdoors or utilizing vehicles (within or near to active work zones) as personal workspaces when not observing construction activities.
 - Most work can be completed in this manner with current technology that is already in use per Department/PA Turnpike policies and procedures.
 - Inspectors should follow existing Department/PA Turnpike protocols relative to maintaining safety and security when working within personal vehicles.
 - Daily field inspection assignments and construction operations should be communicated electronically or via telephone rather than reporting to the field office.
 - If Wi-Fi is needed the inspector should be able to park/sit near the field office to get signal and/or upload files from remote offsite locations at the end of the workday.
- The use of field offices for face-to-face project meetings should be avoided.
 - Progress and other project meetings and discussions should be held outdoors and/or via phone/video conferencing with meeting minutes documented and shared per existing requirements.
 - The number of participants in face-to-face meetings should be limited to comply with CDC/Department recommended guidelines for maximum group sizes and social distancing.
- Printing of documents should be minimized.
 - Documents that need to be printed or copied can be sent electronically to a designated individual already working in the field office. That individual is to handle printed materials wearing gloves and place the folder in a designated safe place near the field office entrance to transfer the materials. Printed materials can be retrieved once per day.
- Cleaning of Field Offices
 - Contractors shall provide a daily cleaning plan/protocol for approval that complies with CDC guidelines and the following (in addition to existing requirements):
 - All work surfaces, doorknobs, light switches and commonly accessed surfaces should be disinfected
 - A record of cleaning dates/times is to be maintained.
 - Staff are to secure their work materials (including paper products or equipment) away from work surfaces and lock them up at the end of the shift

so cleaning can be done without contacting paper and materials. This includes field books and project documents.

- Additional Hygienic Materials
 - Disinfectant hand wipes/sanitizer and/or gel, along with a lined trash receptacle, should be located adjacent to field office entrance(s) and used by each individual upon each entry. Materials are to be replenished daily.
 - Staff should sanitize their equipment (computers, PPE and desks) when each shift is finished.
 - Extra (new) disposable PPE equipment including earplugs and safety glasses is to be available for staff use.
- Asphalt Facilities:
 - [Maintain Healthy Business Operations](#)
 - Facility to institute a COVID-19 Safety Plan for review and acceptance.
 - Refer to [Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) section.
 - **Identify a workplace coordinator** who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact at the workplace.
 - Institute best practices for worker safety as outline by the CDC
- Concrete Facilities:
 - [Maintain Healthy Business Operations](#)
 - Facility to institute a COVID-19 Safety Plan for review and acceptance.
 - Refer to [Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) section.
 - **Identify a workplace coordinator** who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact at the workplace.
 - Institute best practices for workers safety as outlined by the CDC
- Aggregate Quarries:
 - [Maintain Healthy Business Operations](#)
 - Facility to institute a COVID-19 Safety Plan for review and acceptance.
 - Refer to [Supplemental COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) section.
 - **Identify a workplace coordinator** who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact at the workplace.
 - Institute best practices for worker safety as outlined by the CDC
- Sanitation Facilities
 - Reference *Publication 408 Section 609.2(a) General*. Wash stations and portable sanitation facilities should be cleaned and disinfected as directed by CDC and OSHA guidelines with regards to COVID-19 practices.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>
 - <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>
- Refer to Department document *COVID-19 Hygiene and Cleaning Best Practices* for personal hygiene, cleaning (project office and job site), for COVID-19 best practices.

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