King County Construction Guidance

In response to the [Governor's March 25 guidance about construction projects](#), King County will operate as follows:

1) The County will continue County construction projects related to essential activities, as noted in exception "a" in the Governor's March 25 memo. This covers facilities such as isolation/quarantine sites, temporary shelters, etc., that will provide for the treatment of those afflicted with COVID-19 and provide shelter for high risk individuals to help contain the spread of the virus. The County will require contractors and project managers to make all possible efforts to comply with CDC and Public Health guidance, such as maintaining social distancing and/or providing and using personal protective equipment.

2) The County will continue County maintenance and public works projects, consistent with the memo's exception "b", when it is possible to comply with CDC and Public Health guidance. Decisions about the ability to comply on specific projects will be made by contractors. Contractors are expected to consult with relevant unions as part of this decision making process. Contractors will be required to update safety plans as part of this process. County inspectors will check compliance with CDC and Public Health guidance and will provide workers with contact information if workers are concerned that guidance isn't being followed.

3) In the unincorporated area, the County will expect construction projects such as home building to shut down, except for work to avoid spoliation and damage, as noted in the memo's exception "c". Exempt work can continue. The County expects contractors to make decisions consistent with the Governor's memo. The Permitting Division of the Department of Local Services will implement this as follows:

- Permitting will continue to do [inspections when requested](#), including building, fire, and site inspections as required by State NPDES permit. Permitting will generally defer to the applicant’s determination about whether the activity is allowed because either the entire project is exempt or the specific work is exempt (emergency, avoid spoliation, safety, etc.). Permitting will ordinarily require the applicant to document in writing that the work they are proposing is allowable under the Governor’s Orders.

- For County construction/public works projects, Permitting will accept blanket acknowledgment these will continue because they are exempt under the Governor’s order.

- Permitting will continue to respond to code enforcement complaints about any unpermitted development activity but Permitting staff will not attempt to enforce the Stay Home Order.

[Call or Email Us with Questions](#)

- Call the Permit Center at 206-296-6600
- Email [DPERWebInquiries@KingCounty.gov](mailto:DPERWebInquiries@KingCounty.gov)