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Washington State

Governor Inslee issued an [updated memo \[chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net\]](#) to address the confusion around construction projects under the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. ***This new guidance does shut down most commercial and residential construction.*** While the new guidance is still a little vague, after further discussions with the state, we currently know this:

- **WSDOT will cease many of its operations as of end of day tomorrow.** The Governor's office has told us that whether or not specific projects will proceed will be decided on a project by project basis. The Governor's office and WSDOT will work on that list, likely tomorrow (Thursday), but circumstances can change. ***This is contrary to information AGC sent out yesterday;*** WSDOT was planning to proceed with all projects, but apparently this was subsequently overruled by the Governor. WSDOT will be sending out notice to all contractors tonight and we urge you to contact your PE's first thing tomorrow.
- Local governments (and this appears to include school districts) will have the authority to make determinations about the public infrastructure construction within their jurisdictions. Before this new guidance from the Governor, we had contacted many local governments, and most indicated they are proceeding with construction work. This new guidance does not seem to give them any reasons to change their minds, but at this point we can't be definitive with regard to what individual jurisdictions will do – please be in contact with your local government clients.
- Commercial construction is largely shut down, except to support essential services such as IT infrastructure. As best we understand it, for example, data centers would be allowed to proceed, but not necessarily an office building being constructed by a tech company. There may still be some gray area here, but the main point is that construction can proceed if it supports an essential *function* of an essential industry, not simply *any* function. Please be in contact with your clients.
- Residential construction (except for publicly funded low-income housing) will not be allowed except as it relates to emergency repairs and projects that ensure structural integrity, and any residential construction that may be related to the provision of other essential services.

This guidance will be in effect for the duration of the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy [proclamation \[governor.wa.gov\]](#), currently slated to end Apr. 6, although the Governor has stated he may extend it if circumstances warrant.

We have a [checklist \[chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net\]](#) available for you with some things to consider as you begin to shut down your sites. We know that jobsite security is one of your biggest concerns and we will be gathering some best practices to share with you soon.

AGC has worked hard with many partners over the last few days to urge the Governor to keep construction going as long as it can be done safely, and we worked hard to provide safety guidance and information to help ensure that it can be. We are disappointed in the Governor's decision, but we also realize that the health of citizens and our workforce is paramount. We will work with the Governor's office to help get construction going as soon as possible.

Available Resources:

If you have not already visited our [COVID-19 resource page \[nwgac.org\]](#), I strongly urge you to look at the guidance available to you at that time. We will continue to refine COVID-19 safety guidance and post updates as we do.