



**Pacific County**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

BUILDING • ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH • PLANNING

On March 23, 2020 Governor Inslee issued a stay at home Proclamation in which he directed nonessential businesses throughout the state to close. There have been constant questions related to Governor's Proclamation since it was issued and a clarification memorandum was sent on March 25, 2020 to provide guidance for those in the construction industry with respect to what construction operations are deemed essential. In general, commercial and residential construction is not authorized under the Proclamation because construction is not considered to be an essential activity.

However, in his clarification guidance document for construction, Governor Inslee noted three exceptions to the order as follows:

- a) Construction related to essential activities as described in the order;
- b) To further a public purpose related to a public entity or governmental function or facility, including but not limited to publicly financed low-income housing; or
- c) To prevent spoliation and avoid damage or unsafe conditions, and address emergency repairs at both non-essential businesses and residential structures.

Pacific County will abide by the Governor's construction guidance Proclamation for residential construction as follows:

- a) Permitted residential or commercial structures currently under construction, having constructed floor and walls that are currently standing and would be a safety hazard if left uncompleted, would be allowed to be finished to the weather to avoid spoilage and unsafe conditions. Finished to the weather means the installation of windows, doors, siding, and roofing only.
- b) The County will provide critical building inspections meaning emergency inspections and partial framing inspections only. The intent is to allow a residential building to be impenetrable to the weather to prevent damage and unsafe conditions.
- c) All construction activity permitted to continue must still abide by the safety standards set forth by the US Department of Labor and Washington Department of Health on preparing workplaces for Covid-19.

Before any contractor or subcontractor resumes work under the Order (and its clarification), we suggest asking for clear guidance on what necessary and required safety precautions have been put in place by the owner and/or developer and construction team and to ensure a clear plan is in place to effectuate those sanitation and safety procedures. The policy remains in effect so long as the Governor's Proclamation 20-25 or any successor proclamation remains in effect.