

WHAT SILICON VALLEY CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING INDUSTRIES NEED TO KNOW DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

by NARI Silicon Valley



SOME FAQ'S ON ESSENTIAL BUSINESS WORK:

I work for an essential infrastructure organization—can I leave home to go to work?

Yes. "Essential Infrastructure" includes, but is not limited to, public works construction, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Can warehouses and distribution centers that supply businesses that ship and deliver stay open?

Yes.

What if my business is not considered an Essential Business? Does this Order require that I shut down my business facility?

You and your employees are allowed to perform "Minimum Basic Operations" on site at your work place, so long as employees maintain a distance of six feet from one another to the greatest extent feasible. Minimum Basic Operations include:

1. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, or for related functions.
2. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

Your employees can also work from home if their jobs are ones that can be performed remotely.

What if my plumbing gets stopped up or there is another problem with necessary equipment at my home? How will I access those sorts of services?

Call your plumber or building manager. This Order allows service providers like plumbers, electricians, and exterminators to keep working and providing their services to the public. To obtain supplies for a DIY solution, you can also visit your hardware store, which is allowed to stay open under this Order.

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR COVID-19

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What do I do if my employer requires me to go to work?

Many businesses are not permitted to operate under this Order. Essential Businesses, as defined in the Order, are allowed (and encouraged) to continue operating. If your work is not an Essential Business, you are not permitted to go to work and your employer is not permitted to require you to attend except to complete Minimum Basic Operations, as that term is defined in the Order. You may work from home if your work permits.

Click on the links below to be taken to the websites noted

1. ARTICLE REFERENCE: WHO CAN LEAVE THEIR HOME? READ THE 'SHELTER IN PLACE' ORDER FOR 7 BAY AREA COUNTIES:

* <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/16/read-shelter-in-place-order-from-six-bay-area-counties/>

* *"ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;"*

2. CORONAVIRUS SHELTER-IN-PLACE INFORMATION PER COUNTY:

- **Santa Clara County:**
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/home.aspx>
- **San Mateo County:**
<https://www.smcgov.org/shelter-place-faqs>
- **Alameda County:**
<http://acgov.org/>
- **Other Counties Affected:** For Marin, Contra Costa and San Francisco Counties, please search via Google and find the county website to get information.

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3. PROTECTION:

- **CDC Guidance on How to Protect Yourself: IMPORTANT**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>
- **CDC Guidance for Businesses: IMPORTANT**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- **California Department of Public Health Covid-19 Page:**
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

4. LOANS/FUNDING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC:

- **US Small Business Administration (SBA):** Santa Clara is considered a disaster area by the Small Business Administration.
<https://www.sba.gov/>

<http://www.oesnews.com/sba-offers-disaster-assistance-to-california-small-businesses-economically-impacted-by-the-coronavirus-covid-19-2/>

- **NEW Federal/State/Local Legislation:**

Advise business owners to research what laws have been passed and are being passed to help small businesses through this time. Federal, State and Local governments are passing legislation very quickly to aid businesses and individuals by making sure they can be sustained through this pandemic. On March 18th, President Trump signed 100 Billion Legislation to aid those affected by Coronavirus (Covid-19) in various ways. More federal legislation (possibly 1 trillion in aid) is expected in next week or so to help those affected. Governor Newsom signed a 1 billion spending bill to help California, and governors around the country are attempting to help people with mortgage and rent. Staying up to date on what is being passed and how owners and employees can benefit, could help owners make decisions through this pandemic and help employees as well.