



# THE HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

# COVID-19 RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

## Fast Facts:

- The Houston Construction Industry provides consistent employment annually for over 230,000 construction workers in the Houston Metro Area
- The average wage for construction workers across all trades is approximately \$20/hour
- Most construction employees work 45-50 hours/week
- The annual payroll for construction labor in the Houston Metro Area is a staggering \$12 billion
- Almost all of the \$12 billion construction payroll goes directly back into the Houston economy and provides a multiple of same as local economic impact.
- The hardworking construction workers in the Houston area are collectively our best asset.

Houston area employment (number in thousands)	Dec. 2019	Change from Dec. 2018 to Dec. 2019	
		Number	Percent
Total nonfarm	3,225.7	88.0	2.8
Mining and logging	85.3	4.3	5.3
Construction	232.2	9.3	4.2
Manufacturing	242.5	6.7	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	655.1	10.4	1.6
Information	29.9	-1.9	-6.0
Financial activities	168.1	4.0	2.4
Professional and business services	526.8	26.3	5.3
Education and health services	408.9	10.3	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	328.3	4.8	1.5
Other services	122.4	9.7	8.6
Government	426.2	4.1	1.0



# COVID-19 Recommended Practices – Construction Sites:

Three distinct areas on most construction sites:

## 1. Field Office (Job Trailer)



## 2. New Construction (open to exterior environment)



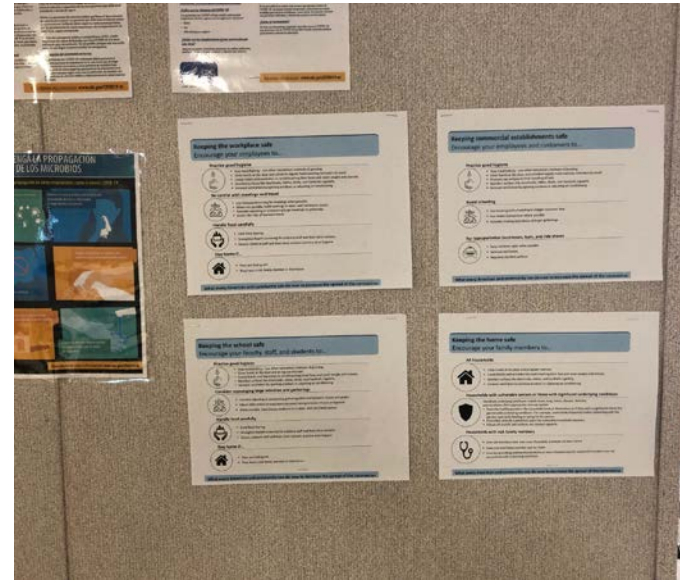
## 3. Interior Construction (closed to exterior environment)





# Field Office/Job Trailer Protocol

- Enhance all safety plans to include COVID-19 protocols.
- All on-boarding of new personnel will include COVID-19 awareness and protocol.
- No job site/job wide meetings should be held.
- Use available technology to its full capacity to avoid face to face meetings/interaction.
- Conference calls, go-to meeting and/or video conferencing should be held in lieu of face to face meetings.
- Remind site personnel to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Hand shaking should be avoided, other noncontact methods should be used for greeting.
- Practice social distancing (6' away from each other).
- Frequent hand washing is encouraged. If soap and water is not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be used.
- Clean common surfaces in the job office frequently.
- No communal food is permitted.
- Food items and utensils should not be shared.
- Use disposal products if available.
- Utilize hand towels and no-touch trash receptacles where possible.
- Office supplies should not be shared.
- Hazards should be routinely assessed to limit exposure.
- Continuously evaluate risk and exposure on the job site.





# New Construction Protocol

- Practice social distancing and personal hygiene at all times.
- Only critical deliveries and visitors will be permitted to enter the job site.
- Communication will be increased to all employees on site to help everyone stay informed of the latest developments.
- Meetings should be limited and should only include critical staff (under 10 people). Conference calls and/or video conferencing will be used as much as possible.
- Provide disinfecting wipes for elevator operators and hoist operators to sanitize surfaces as often as possible.
- Site personnel should eat their lunch away from others. Lunch breaks will be rotated to keep crowd size limited.
- Facemasks should be added as additional PPE, as available.
- Employees should wear gloves at all times (PPE).
- Employees shall not share PPE.
- Additional hand washing and hand sanitizer stations will be provided.





# New Construction Protocol, continued

- Signage will be promoted across the job site to raise awareness of the COVID-19 best practices and symptoms.
- Work hours will be staggered to avoid large crowds entering/exiting the job site and gathering at lunch.
- JSA meetings will be conducted with 10 or less people.
- CDC updated information will be provided as part of the daily JSA.
- A questionnaire will be utilized during the daily JSA meeting to gain information regarding workers' health and exposure.
- Employees will attest when signing JSA's that they have not experienced fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, non-allergy nasal congestion.
- Additional training and information will be provided to all site personnel as required on COVID-19 and symptoms.
- Servicing of portable toilets will be increased & toilet banks sanitized routinely.
- All coordination efforts will be done in open environments.
- Bottled water will be utilized, if available – water cooler use should be limited.
- Only approved food trucks will be allowed on site.
- Projects with remote parking will limit occupants of shuttle buses and increase the # of shuttles.
- Shuttle buses will be sanitized after each trip.



## Interior Construction Protocol

Same as New Construction Protocol plus:

- Increase ventilation in all work areas.
- Keep construction workers and office workers separated by partitions.
- Limit elevator use to material handling.
- If elevators are required for personnel, dedicate one elevator for construction use.

## Construction Site Employees

- All employees will be asked daily if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Anyone who believes that they have been exposed or is experiencing symptoms or the virus – will be sent to seek medical attention.
- If exposure to COVID-19 is confirmed – they will go home and quarantine for 14 days.
- If in quarantine they begin to experience symptoms – they will seek medical attention.
- Employees will practice social distancing.
- Employees will practice hygiene as recommended by the CDC & communicate the same to fellow workers.
- Employees will not share tools, food or drink.
- We will encourage workers to change clothes prior to arriving home and wash work clothes in hot water and sanitizer.



### **Please answer the following questions:**

#### **1. Have you had (in the past 24 hours) new onset of?**

- Fever (subjective fever or any temperature 100.4 or higher)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Non-allergy nasal congestion
- Have had contact in the last 14 days with someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, is under investigation for COVID-19, or is still ill with respiratory illness; or
- Traveled within the previous 14 days to a country with sustained community transmission?