

June 29, 2020

Dear Construction Industry Representatives:

Thank you for your letter dated June 26, 2020. I recognize and appreciate the work many in the industry have done to safeguard employees and mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 at your worksites. Indeed, your expertise and recommended practices informed the Department's Industry Guidance for Construction developed by DLI and MDH, and your feedback prompted revisions to that plan, as published on June 25. These revisions clarify the responsibilities of General Contractors and make clear which provisions of the guidance are required and which are recommendations.

Since the Governor issued the initial Stay-at-Home order at the end of March, all critical businesses that were allowed to remain open were required to adhere to CDC and MDH guidelines and OSHA standards related to COVID-19 transmission in their workplaces. The CDC guidelines in particular, include the need for businesses to develop plans to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in their workplaces and provide detailed guidance on what actions they are to take.

In Executive Order 20-74, issued by the Governor, all critical businesses, including the construction industry, were directed to develop a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan by June 29, 2020, if they had not done so already and to follow the Industry Guidance issued by the state in developing their plans. In order for Minnesota to sustain its progress in keeping open and reopening its economy, while continuing to flatten the curve, all businesses need to share in the responsibility of ensuring their workplaces are not a source of transmission and need to do their part - to have a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that they share with their workers that adheres to the guidance developed by MDH and DLI for their industries.

The Department has scheduled two webinars this week to assist construction businesses in finalizing their plans and will continue to offer additional webinars based on the needs and requests of the industry in implementing their plans. We are happy to use the webinars as an opportunity to answer questions on how to develop plans that meet the needs of businesses and their various work activities and working conditions. As the department assists construction businesses this week, (June 29 through July 3, 2020) the department will not be taking enforcement action against businesses that have not finalized their plans.

Kind regards,


Nandy J. Jeppink
Commissioner

cc: Speaker Melissa Hortman
Senator Paul Gazelka
Representative Kurt Daudt
Senator Susan Kent
Chris Schmitter, Office of Governor Tim Walz

Equal Opportunity Employer