

REOPENING GUIDANCE

Home-based Construction, Renovations, Repairs, and Maintenance

The following is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening during the COVID-19 emergency and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

See also:

[Order of the Secretary of Health providing for business safety measures \(to keep employees and customers safe\), issued April 15, 2020](#)

[Guidance for Businesses in the Construction Industry Permitted to Operate during the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency](#)

[Authorization for the Conduct of Certain Construction Activity](#)

Protections Needed

Masks

- Employers must provide appropriate PPE to workers.
- Workers doing repairs/maintenance must be masked when inside of clients' homes. If taking breaks/meals inside a client's home, the worker must stay at least 6 feet from others in the home.
- If the worker has other visits to conduct that day, leave mask in place until all visits have been completed.
- Workers should bring a supply of masks to ensure that those in the home are able to mask.
- Ask all those in the home to mask while workers are on-site if they are on the same level as the workers, with the exception of children under age 2.

Isolate

- Contact each client prior to conducting the home visit to confirm no one in the home is showing any signs of illness and ask permission to come. Explain the purpose of the visit and that you will wear a mask and gloves throughout your visit to the home. If anyone is ill, the visit should be rescheduled.
- Workers conducting home-based services must screen themselves for symptoms before every shift and may not conduct home visits if they have cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell.
- Workers who have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days should not conduct home visits.
- Have sick leave policies in place so that employees excluded from the workplace do not lose earnings.
- If an employee develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, businesses and other organizations must take additional precautions to stop the virus from spreading further, as described in [Guidance for Essential Businesses and Organizations During COVID-19](#). Required precautions include calling PDPH at 215-685-5488 to report positive cases.

Distance

- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from those in the home throughout your visit.
- Consider walking or riding a bike for transportation if you are able.
 - [See a map of Indego bike stations.](#)
- If you take public transportation, make sure to wear a mask and try to stay at least 6 feet away from other riders. Wash your hands before and after riding, try not to touch your face, and carry hand sanitizer.
- If you drive to work, drive alone or only with people in your household.

Reduce Crowds

- A maximum of 25 workers may be at an indoor site at one time.
- A maximum of 150 workers may be at an outdoor site at one time.

Handwashing

- Employers must provide hand sanitizer to workers for use before and after all home visits.
- Use hand sanitizer before entering each client's home, as needed throughout the visit, and after leaving the home.
- Note that hand hygiene should be performed before and after touching the mask whether inside or outside of the client's home.
- When you return home from work, wash hands and consider changing your clothes.

 **Clean**

- Wipe down any equipment, pens, etc. that you use inside the home with disinfectant after you leave the home. See [CDC guidance](#) for details.
- Upon completion of the work for the day, workers should disinfect any light switches, door surfaces, door handles, and handrails in the areas where they have been working.

**Communicate**

- Educate employees about symptoms and prevention of COVID-19.
- Remind all employees to:
 - Stay home if they are sick or have had contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
 - Cover coughs or sneezes.
 - Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
 - Wear masks (see above).

Other

- There must be a Pandemic Safety Officer at each site who has completed an approved COVID-19 safety course. Approved courses are listed [here](#).