

CLIENT UPDATE

NEW SAFETY GUIDANCE FROM CITY OF AUSTIN

By [Amy Emerson, Allensworth & Porter](#)
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Today, the City of Austin released a [revised Stay Home-Work Safe Order](#), which will remain in effect through May 8, 2020. The new Order continues to require citizens to stay home, and to only leave their residences for to work in or access Essential Businesses, Essential Government Services, or Critical Infrastructure or to perform Minimum Basic Operations for a Non-Essential Business. Persons leaving their home must now wear a non-medical grade covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, bandana, or scarf unless they are engaged in certain excepted activities like exercise.

Consistent with the City's previous guidance, the Revised Order specifically identifies "residential and building commercial construction" as critical infrastructure and states that it should not be construed to hinder construction identified in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0. This effectively exempts construction from the Order.

Finally, Exhibit D of the [Revised Order sets out new health and safety requirements for all construction projects in the City of Austin](#), regardless of project size. These requirements replace those contained in previous guidance issued by the City on March 24, 2020 and March 30, 2020. For more information about the specific safety requirements, please see our [FAQ page](#).

ABOUT

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Allensworth & Porter focuses exclusively on the practice of construction law. For 25 years, the firm has handled complex construction matters from preconstruction to closeout, from the first claim to the last appeal, and all manners of disputes in between for clients in virtually every sector of the commercial construction industry. For more information, visit [aaplaw.com](#).

*Note: This article was written on Monday, April 13, 2020, based on the most up-to-date information available at the time. During this unprecedented situation, policies and circumstances evolve rapidly. For our most recent analysis of COVID-19 and the construction industry, please visit [aaplaw.com/news](#). **This is not legal advice**; all decisions should be based on an analysis that is specific to the contracts and facts of any given project.*