

**CLIENT ADVISORY**

**TO: David Southerland, Executive Director  
AIA Atlanta & AIA Georgia**

**FROM: Josh Belinfante**

**DATE: April 6, 2020**

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On April 2, Governor Kemp signed Executive Order 04.02.20.01 (attached). It issues a statewide shelter-in-place requirement. The Executive Order expires on April 13 at 11:59pm, and can be extended by the Governor if the extension is ratified by the legislature.

The Executive Order impacts many industries, including construction. Importantly, the Order supersedes any local government orders: local governments are prohibited from enforcing local ordinances that are more *or* less strict from the Executive Order. In short, there is now one shelter-in-place order governing business in Georgia.

The Executive Order requires all citizens to shelter-in-place unless an exception applies. The main two work-related exceptions are for those working in Essential Services and those engaging in Minimum Basic Operations. “Essential Services” are based on federal guidelines from the Department of Homeland Security (the “[CISA Guidelines](#)”).

For the architects, contractors, and construction, the following rules of thumb are a good place to start:

1. All work—whether office or on a construction site—should utilize safe practices like staying six feet apart, washing hands frequently, and other preventative measures.
2. Residential construction is deemed an exempted Essential Service.
3. “Working outdoors” is permitted, and the Executive Order specifically cites work by “contractors, landscape businesses” and others.
4. Indoor construction activities can be permitted if they are linked to an Essential Services (e.g., hospital construction). Beyond this, there may be arguments that can support continued operations on a commercial, indoor construction site. We can assist members with that issue as it arises.
5. Minimum Basic Operations are also permitted, and such activity includes doing those tasks to assure payroll is processed, security, and managing inventory.

This is a new world for all involved. If we can be helpful to you and your members, please let us know.