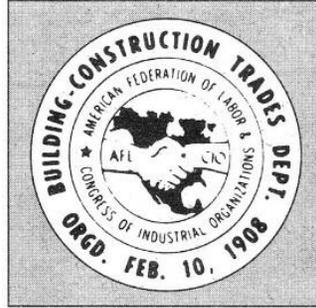


## RHODE ISLAND



## BUILDING TRADES

To: The Rhode Island Construction Industry  
From: Michael F. Sabitoni, President  
Date: April 1, 2020  
Re: Update on Construction Activity during the COVID-19 Crisis

---

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council (RIBCTC) is writing to advise our construction community on key industry updates and measures that our council is implementing to keep our members healthy and safe on local, critical construction projects.

Working collaboratively with our contractors, we have been a long-standing leader in developing health and training protocols in order to ensure the safety of our membership. Since the beginning of the corona crisis, our council has been proactive in our collective approach and implementation of proper protocols and procedures to address COVID-19 on essential construction sites. Accordingly, we are strictly following guidance from the State Department of Health, CDC, OSHA, and the State Department of Labor and Training, as well as collaborating with our contractor and union safety professionals, to ensure that our members are working safely while strictly adhering to our directions and guidelines.

As a consequence, the RIBCTC has unanimously endorsed and are insisting that there be **a dedicated COVID-19 safety person at every job site.** Every job site should also have:

- A contractor representative to greet all employees and ask how they feel
- Temperature checkers on project sites employing more than 10 tradesmen and women
- Proper personal protection equipment for all tradesmen and women
- Numerous stations and areas set up for frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizers
- Designated lunch time so that the trades eat lunch in groups of 2-3 only
- Elevator restrictions that allow trades in groups of 2-3 only

In addition, RIBCTC members have been informed and have the right to request a voluntary layoff for any reason including:

- Feeling unsafe or feel that it is in an individual or family's best interest
- Are not feeling well
- Were informed by their doctor not to go to work
- Have to care for a family member

Any RIBCTC member will have the right to file and receive unemployment insurance or family medical leave for any of the reasons above.

The RIBCTC has also communicated with our members to contact their local union hall with any complaint or concern about unsafe work conditions. The RIBCTC has unanimously endorsed an immediate stand down, suspension, and if necessary, shutdown of any project that is not following the industry best practices mandated by the agencies referenced above.

In closing, working collaboratively with our contractor partners, I am confident that we will keep the construction economy going while protecting our members and keeping our job sites safe; and we will not hesitate to stand down, suspend and even shut down any project in the state of Rhode Island not following the proper protocols and procedures period.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 401-331-9682 or at [msabitioni@local271.org](mailto:msabitioni@local271.org). Please stay healthy and be safe!