



Dear Valued Members,

Like you, we're doing our very best to stay abreast of the extremely fluid developments concerning the COVID-19 outbreak and what it means for personal health and business operations. For the past week, we have been posting timely and vital information online to assist our members and industry.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY REVIEWED THESE DOCUMENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE [COVID-19 LANDING PAGE](#) ON OUR WEBSITE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO POST RELEVANT INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

As you are likely aware, Governor Inslee last night (March 23) issued a COVID-19 "Stay Home and Stay Safe Order," which limits certain businesses from operating in Washington beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25 for two weeks at which time it will be reassessed. Governor Inslee followed up that directive with a written emergency pronouncement that highlights those industries and businesses that are deemed "essential" business functions, thereby allowing these businesses to remain open and individuals may leave their residences to perform any work necessary to provision, operate, and maintain these businesses. **For the exact wording of the governor's order, click [here](#).**

We interpret the intent of this emergency order to mean that the residential construction trades and certain of its supplier networks are "essential" business functions, and are exempt from the major provisions of the Stay at Home Order. You will see the primary reference to the construction trades on page 11 of the Order while suppliers and lumber manufacturers are mentioned on pages 3, 4, and 5 and finance services are mentioned on page 12. **However, we encourage you to proceed cautiously and otherwise strictly follow all CDC and other official agency guidance. We have been working on a list of best safety practices for the construction trades that we expect to have posted to our website before Wednesday. It is essential that worksites pay especially close attention to safeguarding worker and guest safety.**

If your specific business is not listed as an essential function, you are required to work remotely.

We appreciate that this is an emergency order and the language is not as clear as any of us would have ideally hoped for. Certainly, we expect that it is possible that others may have a different interpretation.

MBAKS is providing this information for general information only. This information does not constitute the provision of legal advice, tax advice, accounting services, investment advice, or professional consulting of any kind nor should it be construed as such. The information provided herein should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional tax, accounting, legal, or other competent advisers.

Please be safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat Sims" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kat Sims
Executive Director

MBAKS aspires to be the most trusted and respected housing expert in the Puget Sound region.

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