Starting Tuesday, June 23, Austin-Travis County Orders require businesses, including construction sites, to adopt and enforce health plans that require face coverings.

In an effort to address the continuing prevalence of COVID-19 in our community and to help control the spread of the virus, the City’s Stay Home, Mask, and Otherwise Be Safe Order [poolbuilder.infusion-links.com] includes Construction Requirements (See Exhibit D) that hold businesses accountable for ensuring employees follow these requirements. Based on recent guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, businesses that do not comply may be subject to civil or criminal penalties. These new orders remain in effect until August 15, 2020.

As a reminder, construction sites are still required to:
- Stagger shifts for sites with more than 10 active workers.
- Conduct daily jobsite briefings and health screenings.
- Mandate hand-washing, and place hand-washing stations and restrooms at least six feet apart.
- Provide single-use disposable paper towels and no-touch trash receptacles.
- Keep tools disinfected.
- Post notices about these requirements, in English and Spanish [poolbuilder.infusion-links.com], where workers can see them.
- Designate a COVID-19 Safety Monitor.

Development Services Department (DSD) inspectors will continue to monitor these activities during routine inspections. If a site is not enforcing these health and safety requirements, inspectors will notify Austin Code Department (ACD).

ACD will respond to all complaints regarding violations at construction sites, including referrals from DSD and Austin 3-1-1. If a violation is found, businesses will have an opportunity to comply, and a follow-up inspection will be conducted within 24 hours. Please be aware that repeat offenses of face covering requirements will result in a $1,000 per day fine until compliance is achieved.

The City of Austin’s goal is to protect our community, not to assess penalties. With that in mind, please ensure all employees on any active job sites for which you are responsible know what they need to do to protect themselves, their families, and our community.

As always, thank you for your role in keeping Austin growing, thriving and safe.

Regards,

Denise Lucas, Director
Development Services Department

Director José G. Roig, Interim Director
Austin Code Department