

**William Peduto**

*Mayor*



**Sarah Kinter**

*Acting Director*

Frequently Asked Questions RE: PLI's External COVID Guidelines

**Issued: 5/12/20**

**1. Does the City of Pittsburgh have any requirements beyond the guidance provided by Governor Tom Wolf?**

Yes, please refer to current item 6 of "PLI's External Guidelines for Construction Activity During the Governor's Amended COVID Emergency Order" published here: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/pli/>

**2. What allows PLI to have different guidelines than the Governor?**

The Governor's "[Guidance For Businesses In The Construction Industry](#)" allows local municipalities to adopt more stringent guidelines.

**3. Who is the permit holder?**

The permit holder is the company/individual, or trade license holder to whom a permit is issued. For example, the general contractor is the permit holder for a building permit, and the mechanical trade license holder is the permit holder for a mechanical permit.

**4. Do all permit holders at a job-site require separate Pandemic Safety Officers (PSO)?**

No, multiple permit holders at a job-site can elect to share PSO's.

**5. Is more than one (1) PSO required for each job-site?**

For job-sites with 20, or more workers, including all trades, one (1) PSO is required during construction.

**6. For job-sites with multiple permit holders, who is responsible for providing a PSO?**

The responsibility to provide the PSO shall be coordinated between all permit holders for each job-site/project.

**7. Are alternate COVID-19 training and certification programs acceptable for PSO?**

Yes, if the certification has been approved by PLI. This is the current list of approved certification programs:

- OSHA [“Preparing the Workplaces for COVID-19”](#),
- OSHA [“COVID-19 Awareness”](#),
- For members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, the Northeast Carpenters Apprentice Training Fund, [“COVID-19 Preparedness Qualification \(CITF\)”](#),
- For members of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 66, [“COVID-19 Pandemic Response Training Tool”](#).

**8. Is the entire interior building and/or job-site required to be vacant for 48-hours prior to an inspection?**

The area(s) of job-site to be inspected, and adjacent spaces physically open to these, are required to be vacant for a minimum of 48 hours. Other spaces that are physically closed to the area of inspection are not required to be vacant.

**9. Are there alternates to the “pre-inspection job-site vacancy”?**

Yes, remote inspections using video software, as identified as identified by PLI, maybe used where approved by the PLI Director, Assistant Director, or their designee. This will generally be restricted to single-family and two-family dwellings due to impracticality of vacating a home during a stay at home order. Note, the permit holder in their inspection request shall clearly request the use of remote inspections.

**10. What happens if I fail to comply with PLI’s COVID-19 Guidelines?**

PLI has the authority to fail an inspection, issue a stop work order, revoke a permit and/or suspend and/or revoke a PLI issued license for documented instances of non-compliance with PLI’s Covid-19 guidelines.

**11. How can I extend the deadline for my application to avoid its abandonment, voiding and discarding of application materials?**

During PLI’s temporary procedures, PLI is suspending the calculation of inactivity for permit abandonment. During this period, PLI will not void permits and will retain application materials. PLI will provide notice on our website and through our newsletter prior to resuming these activities.

**12. Since PLI has provided a grace period to renew all trade licenses and waived late fees, does that mean that work can still be performed under an expired license?**

No, PLI's Licensing Rules and Regulations are still in effect. An expired license will prevent the following PLI actions: permit issuance, perform inspections, complete a permit.

**13. My Permit has been in “ready to issue” status for a while, why hasn't it been issued?**

There is a backlog of permits in the “ready to issue” status. PLI is issuing all permits, including recently approved permits, based on the date the permit entered this status, in order from the oldest to the newest. **Note PLI anticipates it will take several business days to get through this backlog.**