

FHMS COVID-19 Resource Center:

OSHA'S COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provided [guidance](#) for construction employers and workers on actions to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. We [previously](#) reported on Pennsylvania's guidance for construction projects permitted to resume in the state.

Of note, OSHA recommends that employers engaged in construction (including carpentry, ironworking, plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, utility construction work, and earth-moving activities) remain aware of any changing outbreak conditions, community spread of the virus, and testing availability. Employers should implement the appropriate coronavirus infection prevention measures as conditions change.

The OSHA webpage also provides the following guidance:

- Using physical barriers, such as walls, closed doors, or plastic sheeting, to separate workers from individuals experiencing signs or symptoms consistent with the coronavirus;
- Keeping in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limiting the number of workers in attendance, and using social distancing practices;
- Screening calls when scheduling indoor construction work to assess potential exposures and circumstances in the work environment before worker entry;
- Requesting that shared spaces in home environments where construction activities are being performed, or other construction areas in occupied buildings, have good air flow; and
- Staggering work schedules, such as alternating workdays or extra shifts, to reduce the total number of employees on a job site at any given time and to ensure physical distancing.

OSHA also created a coronavirus [webpage](#) that contains additional information and updates, and recommends employers visit the CDC's [website](#) for additional information.

As always, we are available to discuss your questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

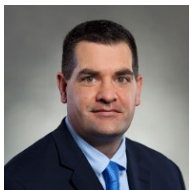
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Damian M. Taranto is a partner with over a decade of experience defending commercial vehicle, general liability, product liability, construction accident, and premises liability matters. He has represented insureds and self-insureds in cases with questionable liability and catastrophic injuries, handling all aspects of litigation from initial pleadings through jury trial. In addition to post-accident investigations, he works directly with insureds to develop and execute risk management strategies. For questions, please contact him directly at **215-789-4845**.

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