



## BULLETIN #2 COVID-19 Virus City of Boston Construction Activities Ban, Temporary ISD Public Access Restrictions and Building Permit Procedures.

This advisory is to keep you informed with regard to the temporary restrictions imposed by the City of Boston on construction activities at permitted construction sites and on building permitting activities in Boston during the Covid-19 virus period. I hope that you will find the following information useful as we all continue to make our way through this troubling period. You may be interested to know that we are continuing to maintain our ability to remotely file building permits applications on line and then to conduct the necessary follow up application procedures in person at the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) on behalf of our clients.

### *Boston's Ban on All Non-Essential Construction Activities.*

- **The Ban.** On March 25, 2020 the City of Boston extended indefinitely its ban on all non-essential construction activities at City of Boston permitted construction sites due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Although the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has not imposed a similar ban on construction activities state-wide, the cities of Cambridge and Somerville have joined Boston in banning all non-essential construction activities at permitted construction sites in their cities.
- **Two Exemptions.** The Boston ban, however, exempts from its purview two categories of construction activities: 1.) where construction activities that the City has deemed essential to the safety and health of its occupants are taking place; and 2.) where, on a case-by-case basis, the City's ISD Commissioner has determined that continued construction activities on the site would support improving public safety and health and where the proponent has demonstrated that the site will adopt prudent measures to mitigate the risk of exposure to the Covid-19 virus for construction workers.
- **Standards for Granting Exemption Status.** The City has not yet issued any further written guidance to specify the standards or procedures that the ISD should follow when considering whether to grant a request for an exemption.
- **How to Apply for An Exemption to the Construction Activities Ban.** An application should be in writing and be directed to the Commissioner of the ISD by email: [dion.irish@boston.gov](mailto:dion.irish@boston.gov), or directed to the Assistant Commissioner-Building, Sean Lydon, by email: [sean.lydon@boston.gov](mailto:sean.lydon@boston.gov). According to a spread sheet posted on the City's web page the ISD has granted thirty-eight exemptions to the construction activities ban to date. To view the web page go to: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>. Once on the page scroll down to Building permits, then hit the box on the right that says: "permits approved to do work during citywide moratorium" and it will bring you to the spreadsheet.

*Boston's Temporary Building Department (ISD) Public Access Office Restrictions.*  
On March 30, 2020 the ISD restricted public access to its offices at 1010

Massachusetts Avenue to an appointment only basis. The ISD is only providing critical services to the public at this time. A list of the critical services can be found on the ISD web page at: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>.

*Boston's Temporary Building Permit Application Restrictions.* The ISD has stopped issuing building permits during the period while the ban on construction activities is in effect. The ISD however, continues to accept building permit applications through its on line portal and continues to review submitted for zoning and building code compliance during the Covid-19 period.

I plan to continue to provide my clients with prompt guidance regarding matters of interest to them and their businesses as they arise during the Covid-19 period. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of service to you on any matter that may arise during this time. I hope that you and your families remain healthy and safe as we all strive to overcome the Covid-19 virus.

Sincerely,

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