

Dear City of Bethlehem Partner,

Many of you have contacted us with your policies related to COVID-19 and I want to thank you for that outreach. The City of Bethlehem has spent significant time evaluating policies and procedures and as of today, City of Bethlehem remains open for business. We are:

- Accepting plans and issuing permits; and,
- Inspecting new constructions projects, as scheduled.

We ask you to conduct as much administrative business as possible over our website, through email, and over the telephone, as access throughout the building is limited. The decision to keep city hall open is evaluated on a regular basis. As changes to the current policy are made, we will communicate those changes with you.

We are allowing some discretion to our inspectors regarding COVID-19 when visiting job sites. All job sites are different and so we need to rely on their judgement when evaluating the safety of the situation.

Guidance developed by the City of Bethlehem Health Bureau is as follows:

COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS

In order to protect the health and safety of the community we serve, we are asking every face-to-face contact the following screening questions before commencing an inspections. These questions should be posed to the project manager/construction foreman.

1. Is everyone at this location been made aware of the CDC emergency warning signs for COVID-19?

If the answer is yes, continue to #2. If the answer is no, you may reschedule the inspection.

2. Does anyone at this location have:

- Fever, chills, or coughing?
- Signs of respiratory illness, shortness of breath or flu-like symptoms?

If the answer is no, continue to #3. If the answer is yes, you may reschedule the inspection.

3. Has anyone at this location recently:

- Traveled out of the country?

- Traveled to an area with widespread cases of COVID -19 Coronavirus?
- Been in contact with anyone known to have the virus?

If the answer is no, begin the inspection. If the answer is yes, you may reschedule the inspection.

Under current circumstances, I expect very few – if any – inspections to be rescheduled. If you have any issues, please let me know immediately.

Thank you for your continued business in the City of Bethlehem and best of luck on your projects.

Thanks,

Alicia Miller Karner

City of Bethlehem
Director, Department of Community & Economic Development
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
(610) 997-7628
(610) 509-9973 (mobile)