



**COVID-19 Update**  
**To the Members of the Syracuse Builders Exchange**  
**Earl R. Hall, Executive Director**  
**May 14, 2020**

**CONSTRUCTION WILL RESUME FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020**

Earlier today Governor Andrew Cuomo held his daily press conference in Syracuse, NY. He announced the Central New York region has now met all 7 of the "reopening" metrics. In addition to the Central New York region, the following regions have also met the 7 "reopening" metrics and thus able to reopen construction on May 15:

1. Finger Lakes
2. Northern New York
3. Mohawk Valley
4. Southern Tier

Collectively all five regions represent approximately 35 counties. The reopening of construction across these 35 county regions is critical to restarting our upstate New York economy. As I have said many times, the resurrection of the upstate New York economy will be led by the construction industry, and our resilient contractors.

**"REOPENING" CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY GUIDANCE**

Last evening, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's office issued interim guidance for the construction industry as part of New York's phase 1 reopening plan [Click here](#) for a link regarding industries reopening by phase.

The specific construction guidelines for employers and employees just issued by New York State can be found by clicking [here](#).

In addition, the New York State Department of Health has issued interim guidance for construction activities during the COVID-19 public health emergency. At the bottom of the 9 page document employers will be asked to electronically affirm that you have read and understand the employer's obligation to operate in accordance with the construction guidance. To see this entire document please [click here](#). To review the business affirmation form, please [click here](#).

It would appear the guidance issued yesterday by New York State is very similar to the reopening plan the Syracuse Builders Exchange submitted to Governor Cuomo's office and the 16 regional county executives two weeks ago.

New York State has also issued a [safety plan template](#) for employers. While this safety plan does not need to be submitted for approval, it must be kept on the business property and made available to the New York State Department of Health, and local health and/or safety authorities in the event of an inspection.

***Important Note:***

The guidance from Governor Cuomo's office and the New York State Department of Health applies to all employers, no matter how large or how small of a workforce.

**TODAY'S IMPORTANT WEBINARS**

Earlier today, SBE hosted two live webinars and one pre-recorded webinar. Two of the three will be available at our web site for future viewing.

At 11:00 AM, attorney Ed Sheats and I reviewed and discussed the construction guidance issued yesterday by Governor Cuomo's office and the NYS Department of Health. The 90 minute webinar was recorded and may be viewed any time at [www.syrabex.com](http://www.syrabex.com), under COVID-19 Updates.

At 3:00 PM, Jeff Prebish, Syracuse area OSHA Director (covering a 24 county region), and I hosted a live webinar to review and discuss OSHA's role specific to COVID-19 and what to expect when OSHA visits your job site beginning next week. This was a live webinar only as OSHA prohibited SBE from recording it, so it is not available on our web site.

Finally, SBE posted our third webinar of the day at approximately 10:00 AM. This pre-recorded webinar was conducted by the risk management team at OneGroup. It addressed:

- What to do after a possible Covid-19 exposure in your workforce
- Preventing the spread of Covid-19 in your workforce
- Other ways you can be prepared to re-open safely

The webinar is available on [www.syrabex.com](http://www.syrabex.com) and may be viewed any time. The webinar power point presentation is attached.

**COVID-19 JOB SITE POSTERS**

Over the past 2 days our members have ordered over 300 COVID-19 job site posters. These large, full color, all weather water-proof indoor/outdoor posters are ideal for the office and job site. Please contact Melissa or Lisa at (315) 437-9936 to place your order and schedule your delivery/pick-up, or complete the attached order form and email to [lisa@syrabex.com](mailto:lisa@syrabex.com)

Today was a very busy day at SBE. I'm not sure what Friday will bring, but I hope it brings our members comfort in knowing your businesses are free to resume all construction-related activities, subject to the guidance issued by New York State.

I'm always available to answer questions, bounce off ideas or to just say hello. I love speaking to our members about anything that is important to you, so feel free to call me any time. I'm usually at the office, but feel free to call my cell any time if it is an urgent matter (315) 420-4431.

Earl R. Hall

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Earl R. Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Earl" being more prominent and the last name "Hall" following in a similar style.

Executive Director