

## Guidance for TCEQ Contractors

*Updated April 2, 2020*

This guidance addresses TCEQ contractors' questions about whether to continue work in areas covered by COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. In short, most work performed under TCEQ contracts is to accomplish an essential government service and therefore excepted from state and local stay-at-home orders.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued a [disaster proclamation](#) for all counties. On March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued [Executive Order GA-14](#) (effective April 2, 2020 through April 30, 2020, subject to extension), implementing essential services and activities protocols for the entire state of Texas. The protocols direct all Texans to minimize non-essential gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. GA-14 supersedes the previous order enforcing federal social distancing guidelines for COVID-19. The protocols allow exceptions for essential activities and services based on the Department of Homeland Security's [guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#). Examples of these essential services include government services.

GA-14 notes states that, "all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing essential services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational." Further, "local restrictions issued in response to the COVID- 19 disaster do not apply to restrict the conduct of state business." Therefore, if your work directly or indirectly supports critical infrastructure or is an essential service, you should continue performing this work.

The following work should continue:

- Work that directly or indirectly supports critical infrastructure of the State;
- Work that directly or indirectly supports essential services provided by the TCEQ;
- Work that can be performed remotely or through telework; and
- Other work that can be performed safely in support of TCEQ's essential functions.

As specified in your Contract, the Contractor is responsible for ensuring that work is performed in a safe manner. Please refer to the Center for Disease Control and Texas Department of State Health Services websites and other appropriate sources of information for proper protocols for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, including proper social distancing.

If you believe for any reason that you cannot perform work under the Contract, notify your TCEQ Contract Manger immediately.

*Effective April 2, 2020. This guidance supersedes previous guidance.*