



Western Building Material Association

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WBMA Washington Member Update June 9, 2020

Inslee Extends Proclamation Protecting High-Risk Workers

Gov. Jay Inslee announced the extension of a proclamation today giving high-risk workers the right to protect themselves from COVID-19 without jeopardizing their employment status or loss of income.

The [proclamation](#) provides older workers and those with underlying health conditions a series of rights and protections, including:

- The choice of an alternative work assignment, including telework, alternative or remote work locations if feasible, and social distancing measures.
- The ability to use any accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work assignment is not feasible and the employee is unable to safely work. Employers must maintain health insurance benefits while high risk employees are off the job.
- Employers are prohibited from permanently replacing high-risk employees.

High-risk individuals are defined by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and specifically include:

- 65 years of age or older; and
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled.

The proclamation was extended through August 1, 2020. See WBMA's Homepage for the full proclamation.

Reminder...Facial Coverings Requirement Now in Effect

Beginning June 8, all employees are required to wear a cloth facial covering, except when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site, or when the job has no in-person interaction. Employers must provide cloth facial coverings to employees, unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under the Department of Labor and Industries' safety and health rules and guidance.

Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) on WBMA's home page for additional details. Employees may choose to wear their own facial coverings at work, provided it meets the minimum requirements.

Employers must also post signage at their place of business strongly encouraging customers to wear cloth facial coverings. Businesses are encouraged to require customers to wear cloth facial coverings, in order to protect employees from exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace.