

School Renovations and New Construction: To Build or Not to Build is The Question

How are you making the decision to proceed (or not) with school renovation / construction projects during the coronavirus outbreak? Find out how.

AUSTIN, TX, UNITED STATES, May 13, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [SCHOOL RENOVATIONS](#) AND NEW CONSTRUCTION: TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD IS THE QUESTION

Construction projects at educational institutions are proceeding on a case-by-case basis during the coronavirus outbreak. We look at how educational [facility managers](#) are making the call on whether to proceed with renovations or new build projects and, if so, how they can maintain safe working conditions on the job site.



The coronavirus outbreak has wreaked havoc on the American economy in countless ways.

Restaurants and bars have shut down across the country, major sports leagues have postponed their games indefinitely, and there are critical shortages of products, ranging from toilet paper to medical devices and protective gear needed by first responders and [healthcare](#) providers.

Under normal circumstances, this would be the time of year when facility managers at educational institutions would be gearing up for the annual “construction season” — in which they try to rush through all their badly needed renovations (or make as much headway as possible on new build construction projects) – while the weather is good and most of the students are away on summer break.

But things aren’t normal this year, not in the least.

Across the country, countless primary, secondary, and university level institutions have closed their doors and sent their students home.

How To Decide If It's OK To Proceed With Construction Projects (Or Not)

But these early school closures present a dilemma for many educational facility managers.

On the one hand, the fact that students are not present on many campuses opens up an opportunity to start the "construction season" earlier this year.

But on the other hand, is it entirely safe to do so?

In other words (with apologies to Shakespeare):

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day to day. Any suggestion made today may seem hopelessly out of date in the months, weeks, or even days to come

Given these circumstances, how would you decide whether to proceed with a construction project or not?



To answer this question, we suggest following a decision-making approach proposed by a senior manager at a major REIT located in the Chicago area.

The approach they are following goes like this...

Look first to federal guidance. At the time of writing this article, the Feds are recommending against construction, but it's considered guidance only, not a mandatory requirement at this time.

Second, look to your local state and city regulations. At the time of writing, both Illinois and Chicago (for example) consider commercial construction to be an essential activity, so unless that changes, that's a green light for moving ahead from a state and local regulatory basis.

Third, look to the recommendations of relevant trade unions or trade associations. Again, at the time of writing, the major labor union in Chicago, representing most of the area's construction workers, is presently in favor of continuing work on projects, as long as suitable precautions are taken.

Of course it's a tough call. And, at the moment, unless or until specific rules prohibiting construction projects come into effect in your area, you may be able to proceed from a regulatory perspective.

However, it's crucial to protect your workers, so proceed with caution.

So Are Construction Projects Currently Underway At Educational Institutions Or Not?

The answer is it varies.

Read more: https://formaspace.com/articles/education/school-renovations-constructions/?utm_source=einpresswire&utm_medium=content&utm_campaign=article-033120

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