



Dear NLA Members:

Today marks another day in our Nation's battle against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus continues to spread and members are working diligently to mitigate the impact it will have on their business, their workforce and their communities.

As always, Northwestern Lumber Association (NLA) is working around the clock to ensure that your business is protected. Have you been to our [COVID-19 Resource Page](#) on the [NLA Website](#)? On this page, NLA will continue to provide up to the minute updates from federal and state agencies as to the guidelines, best practices and more to help you address COVID-19.

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### **LBM Deemed an "Essential Business"**

Last Friday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued guidance to federal and state officials to address what is and is not an "essential business". Efforts regionally and nationally have been in motion for weeks to ensure that if and when your state issues a "stay at home" or "shelter in place" order, that you have the choice as to whether you will close your business or not. As of this email, the tendency of officials has been to follow DHS's guidance. States such as California, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and others have issued a "stay at home" or "shelter in place" order yet have exempted construction, LBM dealers & suppliers and hardware stores from mandatory closure.

### **[Department of Homeland Security Guidance on Essential Business](#)**

*Note: Page 6, under Food & Agriculture, 2nd to last bullet, denotes that "workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products" are deemed "essential" by the Department of Homeland Security & the Federal Government.*

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### **Regional Response/Shelter in Places Orders**

#### ***Iowa***

As of this email, Governor Kim Reynolds has not issued a "shelter in place" or "stay at home" order. Certain non-essential businesses such as bars, restaurants, hair & nail salons and tattoo parlors have been ordered to close and/or only provide take-out services.

#### ***Minnesota***

As of this email, Governor Tim Walz has not issued a "shelter in place" or "stay at home" order. Certain non-essential businesses such as bars, restaurants, hair & nail salons and tattoo parlors have been ordered to close and/or only provide take-out services. Walz has self-quarantined himself due to a member of his security detail testing positive for Coronavirus.

#### ***Nebraska***

As of this email, Governor Pete Ricketts has not issued a "shelter in place" or "stay at home" order. Certain non-essential businesses such as bars, restaurants, hair & nail salons and tattoo parlors have been ordered to limit traffic to less than 10 people although they have not be ordered to close fully.

#### ***North Dakota***

As of this email, Governor Doug Burgum has not issued a "shelter in place" or "stay at home" order. Certain non-essential businesses such as on-site bars, restaurants, and dine-in establishments, in addition to recreational facilities, health clubs, and entertainment venues have been ordered to close. Take-out, delivery, drive-through, or off-sale services may continue.

#### ***Michigan***

On March 23, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a 'stay home, stay safe' executive order for all Michigan residents starting at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24 until April 13 at 11:59 p.m. This includes the closure of all non-essential businesses. Like Ohio, California and numerous other states, Governor Whitmer followed the recommendations of the Department of Homeland Security to deem what is and what is not an essential business. As such, lumber and building material dealers, their suppliers based in Michigan and their contractors are **EXEMPT** from this order.

#### ***South Dakota***

As of this email, Governor Kristi Noem has not issued a "shelter in place" or "stay at home"

order. Governor Noem has not issued an executive order to close non-essential businesses such as bars and restaurants however she has issued an order that recommends businesses (in general) limit groups to 10 or fewer and that health care facilities stop doing elective surgeries. Certain municipalities have elected to close bars, restaurants and entertainment venues or limit to take-out services.

### **Wisconsin**

On March 24, 2020, Governor Tony Evers issued a "Safer at Home" executive order for all Wisconsin residents starting at 8:00am on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The order will remain in effect until April 23, 2020. This includes the closure of all non-essential businesses. Like Ohio, California, Michigan and numerous other states, Governor Evers followed the recommendations of the Department of Homeland Security to deem what is and what is not an essential business. As such, lumber and building material dealers, their suppliers based in Wisconsin and their contractors are **EXEMPT** from this order.

To read the full Executive Order for Wisconsin, click [here](#).

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### **Fighting for You**

Northwestern Lumber Association, along with its partners at the National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA), the Midwest Building Supply Association (MBSA) and the Wisconsin Builders Association, have and will continue to work diligently to ensure that our members have the option to remain open and/or close during these unprecedented times.

*A special thank you to Brad Boycks of the Wisconsin Builders Association for lobbying for additional clarifying language in Wisconsin's order to clearly spell out that construction suppliers are "essential".*

NLA would also like to thank all of its members who reached out to their respective legislator(s) and Governor(s) to request that lumber and building material dealers, suppliers and contractors be deemed essential.

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***NLA will continue to monitor these orders in states that have not executed official orders and will communicate with members as to their obligations under each order as soon as possible.***

Stay Tuned to NLA's email correspondence and our COVID-19 [Resource Page](#) on our website for further news and information.

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